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THURSDAY MARCH 15TH, 2018

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Porthcawl man attacked pub landlord... AND THEN DROVE HIS CAR AT POLICE OFFICERS

AFTER attacking a pub landlord and threatening to kill him, a drunken man twice drove deliberately at a police officer, before crashing into a patrol car, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court, writes **AJ SICLUNA**.

Gareth Stone (45) of Blundel Avenue,

Porthcawl, was jailed for 16 months after pleading guilty to charges of assault, dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol.

Recorder I W L Jones told him: "You are getting too old to behave like this. You had drunk a great deal on the day in question and that was an aggravating feature."

"The assault must have been very unpleasant and your

driving was dangerous, deliberate and repeated."

Prosecutor Jason Howells said that on February 3, Stone went to the Ancient Briton pub in Porthcawl, where the landlord was 62-year-old Paul Thomas, whom he had known for 30 years.

At one point, he headbutted Mr Thomas, striking him with the peak of his baseball cap and threatened to kill him.

Shortly after, Stone drove off in his Citroen C3 and he was approached by the police in Newton Nottage Road.

He refused to turn off the engine and twice drove towards an officer, who had to jump clear to avoid injury.

Mr Howells said he was spotted parked on Three Steps Hill. He reversed into a police car, drove onto a grass verge and collided with the vehicle a second time.

He was arrested, handcuffed, aggressive and abusive and kicked out at officers.

Later he was found to have 83mg in 100ml of breath - two and a half times over the legal limit.

The court heard he had received a five-and-a-half year sentence for robbery and had convictions for battery, driving while disqualified and failing to provide a breath sample.

Solicitor Charles Hayes said: "It was erratic, irrational behaviour."

He said he had been involved in a volatile relationship.

"He has no recollection of what occurred and is deeply apologetic. Drink is his problem."

He was disqualified from driving for three years, eight months, and ordered to pay on his release a court surcharge of £140.



Pupils from Brynteg Comprehensive performed at the Welsh final of their 'Performing Shakespeare' competition at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff last month - read more on page 5.

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Stolen defibrillator replaced by charity at train station
READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



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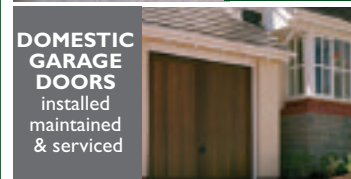
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Entertainment-filled afternoon tea for Charity Appeals Committee

ON February 25, the Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Committee, in conjunction with the management of the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, arranged an afternoon tea, with entertainment provided by the Bridgend Youth Theatre.

This event was well attended and everybody had an afternoon to remember.

After the tea was served, everyone enjoyed the songs and performances by James Evans Jones and Jack Williams with 'Anthem' from *Chess*; Aisling Thomas with 'Find Me Somebody to Love' from *We Will Rock You*; Lois Hadley, Lucy Vinen and Meg Morris with 'In His Eyes' from *Jekyll & Hyde*.

The senior members performed 'Blow High Blow Low' from *Carousel* and the junior members performed a variety of songs from *Annie*, including 'Hard Knock Life' and 'This is Me' from *The Greatest Showman*.

In addition, Millie Healey performed 'Maybe' from *Annie* and junior performer Taya Beechey entertained with two acoustic pieces.

The committee would like to thank organisers Annie, Gwen and James Evans Jones and others for all the hard work arranging the programme.

Bridgend Youth

Theatre offers classes every Monday and Tuesday evening following the school term diary. Anyone interested should call The Grand Pavilion Porthcawl on 01656 815995, or Face book page Bridgend Youth Theatre.

Junior members will be performing *Legally Blonde - Junior* during Whitsun week and support would be appreciated for the young members as it helps their confidence and enjoyment.

The senior section of Bridgend Youth Theatre in partnership with My Shout Ltd performed and Hammerstein's *Carousel* at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl recently, led by artistic director Roger Burnell - a name to remember.

Bridgend Children's Choir and the Sian Dixon School of Dance were also involved.

Bridgend Youth Theatre is an established award-winning theatre company that offers a wide range of opportunities in theatre, television and film, sharing experience, skills and confidence for everyone.

The next event the Civic Charity Committee is arranging is 'An Evening of Musical Splendour' featuring Ogmores Valley Male Choir, Llangewydd Junior School Choir and local artists at St Mary's Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Friday, March 23 at 7pm. Tickets are £5 for adults, children are free.

MM

VERY SOCIAL MOBILITY

THE next meeting of the Bridgend branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society will be on Monday, March 19, at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig CF32 9RF.

The speaker will be Stephen Jarvis with a talk on 'The History of Mobile Homes'.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and everyone is welcome.

Brownies meet local MP



THE 1st Coity Brownies are celebrating 100 years of women voting.

As part of their learning, Madeline Moon MP for Bridgend was invited to talk about voting and women in politics.

Mrs Moon then showed the Brownies what her job involved by inviting them to hold their own Parliament, debating and then voting.

AS

HOW MANY STARS?

THE Milky Way is a very typical barred spiral galaxy 100,000 light years across which contains between 200 and 400 billion stars, with enough dust and gas to make billions more!

Just for comparison, our nearest galactic neighbour Andromeda, at 220,000 light years across and containing up to one trillion stars, is more than twice the size of our Milky Way. Tucked inside the very centre of our galaxy is a monstrous black hole, billions of times as massive as the sun.

A glance up at the night sky reveals a broad swathe of light which the ancients described as a river of milk - hence the name Milky Way. This intriguing band of light is a view of the centre of our galaxy as seen from our own solar system, which lies about 30,000 light-years out from the galactic centre in a minor spur off one of the two main spiral arms.

On Earth, if we are far away from city lights on a moonless and cloudless night, how many of these 200 or so billion stars can we actually see? Well, no one has actually counted them, but astronomers have estimated the number somewhere between 2,500 and 5,000 as seen from any single location on Earth. Of those that we can see, which one stands out?

A couple of months ago, we took a look at Orion, the majestic constellation which is so prominent in our southern skies. If you follow the line of Orion's belt downwards to the left you soon come to Sirius, the Dog Star, which is the brightest star visible from any part of Earth.

Situated in Canis Major (the Big Dog), Sirius is blue-white in colour but is sometimes called a rainbow star, as it often flickers with many colours. These colour changes are just apparent, however, as they are caused when such a bright star shines through the blanket of the Earth's atmosphere.

In ancient Egypt, the name Sirius signified its nature as scorching or sparkling. The star was associated with the Egyptian gods Osiris and Sopdet. It was noticed that Sirius rose just before the Sun each year immediately before the annual flooding of the Nile, which brought new soil and new life.

Osiris was the god of life, death, fertility and rebirth of plant life along the Nile. Sopdet was an agricultural deity also closely associated with the Nile.

At 8.6 light year's distance (50 trillion miles), Sirius is one of the nearest stars to our solar system.

It's a much hotter star than our own Sun with a surface temperature of about 17,000 Fahrenheit compared with our sun's 10,000°F.

With twice the mass of our Sun and nearly twice its diameter, Sirius puts out more than 26 times as much energy. It's a main-sequence star, which means it produces most of its energy by converting hydrogen to helium through nuclear fusion.

Sirius is a binary star system which means there are actually two stars orbiting each other in a 50 year period. Known as Sirius A and Sirius B, the latter is a faint companion star appropriately called The Pup.

Although that name signifies youth, Sirius B is actually a dead star called a white dwarf. Once a mighty star in its own right, it has long used up all its nuclear fuel and is now an Earth-sized ember, too small to be seen without a telescope.

Planets are possible, but none have yet been detected. They might be distant planets orbiting both stars, or close in orbiting either of the two stars; ie both might have their own planets.

Maesteg pupils visit Swansea Music Festival

PUPILS from St Mary's and St Patrick's braced the snowy weather and attended the Swansea Music Festival recently and shared their musical talents through a range of compositions.

They began with a chamber choir piece called 'Holy Night', which was beautifully sung by members of the school choir.

In complete contrast, pupils brought the house

down with Tekwo drumming, which they had composed themselves and the whole orchestra played 'Mambo United'.

The school were placed first in class and have been invited to play in the Mayor's Celebration Concert at the Taliesin Centre at Swansea University on March 18.

All this was possible with the incredible talents of Mrs Turberville, who teaches music at the school every Tuesday.

Cardio group gets off to a flying start

BRIDGEND Support Group Cardiomyopathy UK had its first meeting on Saturday, March 10, and 22 people attended it from across south Wales.

It is an encouraging start for the group which will be getting together on a bimonthly basis.

The organiser, Ann Harrison-Power, told The GEM: "We had our first meeting on Saturday and 22 people turned up from Cardiff, Barry, Caerphilly and Neath, as well as locally,

which was great for the first one.

"Hopefully, numbers will grow as the group gets more established."

Ann volunteers with Cardiomyopathy UK, which is a specialist national charity for people affected by cardiomyopathy. It provides support and information services and aims to raise awareness of the condition.

The meetings are held at Pencoed Welfare Hall (CF35 5PE). More information is available from Ann on 07970 669239; or Jo on 01494 791224.

TC

Plaque for local resident



Mayor Lorrie Desmond Williams presents Kerry Marlow with a plaque.

AT a recent Porthcawl Town Council meeting, Mayor Lorrie Desmond Williams presented a Porthcawl Town Council plaque to a local resident.

Kerry Marlow was presented with the plaque in recognition for his services to the area including the Porthcawl Carnival and, more recently, organising help during the severe weather.

DS

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
15 Thur	05.19	8.8	17.38	8.9
16 Fri	05.57	9.2	18.15	9.4
17 Sat	06.31	9.6	18.48	9.8
18 Sun	07.07	9.9	19.22	10.0
19 Mon	07.39	10.2	19.57	10.1
20 Tues	08.15	10.0	20.31	10.0
21 Wed	08.51	9.8	21.04	9.8
22 Thur	09.28	9.5	21.43	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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The next arrival at Platform 2 is...

A LIFE-saving defibrillator stolen from Bridgend Station has been replaced after a donation from the charity Welsh Hearts.

The theft last month caused disappointment and outrage among Arriva Trains Wales staff and the wider community, particularly as it had been used to save the life of local man Leighton Williams.

At a special presentation on March 9, Sharon Owen of the charity gave the new defibrillator to Arriva Trains Wales staff so it can once again be ready to use in an emergency.

"We're a small charity in Wales and we really wanted to help," said Ms Owen.

"It was heartbreaking to hear about the theft and people don't realise just how important this equipment is and whoever stole it should think about how it might have been needed one day to save someone close to them, so we're really pleased to present this to Bridgend Station."

Last year, Leighton



Leighton Williams with John Squire, Kelly Morgan and Katherine Roberts.

Williams from Ogmores Vale was in Graham Paul accountants when he was taken ill with a cardiac arrest.

After calling 999, staff there were told to get to the railway station quickly as there was a public defibrillator there.

John Squire of the firm sprinted to get the equipment while his colleagues Kelly Morgan and Katherine Roberts performed CPR on him.

Mr Williams was airlifted to Morriston

Hospital and thankfully made a full recovery.

"If it hadn't been for the defibrillator, I'd be dead," he said.

"That's why I was so devastated to hear it had been stolen.

"We've been raising money at Ogmores Vale Rugby Club and will be delighted to give it to Welsh Hearts after their generous donation."

At the event, Ms Owen was presented with a bunch of flowers by Bridgend Station

Manager Tom Owens, Customer Services Director Bethan Jelfs, and Head of Stations Jeremy Williams.

Ms Jelfs said: "These defibrillators are a real community asset and we are delighted to work with Welsh Hearts and hope to do so closer in the future."

"Thankfully, it was able to help save Leighton's life and it's brilliant that it's been replaced so is here if it's ever needed again." **FC**

Jobless Pontycymmer man was 'serious drug dealer'

A JOBLESS man ran a massive drugs dealing operation, sometimes using an internet website, from his home in Pontycymmer, Cardiff. Crown Court has heard, writes AJ SICLUNA.

When police investigated the case, they discovered that 44-year-old Darren Bishop had a turnover of £150,000 in his bank account and in a unit on Brackla Industrial Estate, he had stored 90,000 Valium tablets in 90 metal containers, said prosecutor Julian Greenwood.

Bishop, of Gloucester Buildings, Pantygog, Pontycymmer, described as a 'major operator', was jailed for two years.

His former partner, 36-year-old kitchen assistant Leanne Williams, whose main address was in Porthcawl, was jailed for four months.

Each admitted possessing 97,346 Valium tablets worth up to £24,000 with intent to supply.

Bishop also pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis worth £14,000 with intent to supply, possessing Codeine worth £2,387 with intent to supply and possessing a derivative of LSD.

Mr Greenwood said:

"This was nothing less than a major operation."

He said that a package sent from Pontycymmer Post Office was returned from Anglesey and was found to contain 1,000 Valium tablets.

It was revealed that on the day that was sent, Bishop had posted eight similar packages.

Later, he continued, the home the couple then occupied was searched. Police discovered Valium tablets, packages, £1,000 in cash, 2,000 Euro and five mobile phones with text messages relating to drug dealings, pictures of the goods concerned and details of transactions.

It became clear the operation was also being carried out from a unit at Brackla Industrial Estate, where the police discovered 90,000 tablets.

The postmaster at Pontycymmer indicated that sometimes Bishop would send up to 60 packages a week.

Twice the trading estate premises had been increased in size and officers discovered that £150,000 had gone through Bishop's bank account in a year.

They also discovered that he had bought a car worth £12,000 and had been advertising the drugs online.

"Bishop was the major player in all this and Williams enjoyed some

of the benefits. He was the leader of the operation and she had a lesser role," said Mr Greenwood.

Williams had no previous convictions but Bishop had convictions for producing cannabis and for possessing amphetamine.

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said his principal mitigation were his guilty pleas. She said he didn't try to limit the size of the operation, or distance himself from it.

He was, she said, fearful of prison. He had an arterial disease and mental health problems.

In the past, she added,

he had a long term involvement with drugs.

Rhodri Chudleigh, for Williams, said that last year, she spent some time in a refuge.

"She was not aware of the scale of the operation, of the warehouse unit or the amount of money involved. She won't deny the lifestyle."

He pointed out that the couple no longer live together.

Recorder R J Philpotts said: "This was a serious, well organised operation."

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FAIRTRADE DAY HAS FIRST MINISTER AS 'BAKE OFF' JUDGE!



With the First Minister as he judges the cakes are Margaret Minihinnick, Ffion Bourke and guests from Ethiopia. PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER MORGAN.

AS the culmination of 2018's 'Fairtrade Fortnight', a Fairtrade Bake-Off, organised by the Porthcawl-based charity Sustainable Wales, took place on Saturday, March 10 at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend.

All baked items had to have included fairly traded items, such as sugar, fruit or chocolate.

A 'Mothers' Day' celebration of women everywhere was one of the themes of the day.

Overall judge of the Bake-Off was Welsh First Minister and local AM, Carwyn Jones. Mr Jones claimed he was

happy to act as judge only because the next Senedd elections are three years away.

The director of Sustainable Wales, Margaret Minihinnick, was happy to advise Mr Jones, with the assistance of her grand-daughter, Ffion Bourke.

Also present on the day were representatives of local charity 'Valley and Vale', which has an ongoing project with women from Ethiopia, especially those who have given birth to twins.

All winners have allowed their prizes to go towards future fundraising for Fairtrade in Wales.

AS

Sker WI battles the elements

SKER WI battled the Beast from the East and Storm Emma, along with all the other trials and tribulations that the winter always throws at everyone.

However, spring has, at least on paper, arrived and members can look forward to warmer weather and lighter evenings.

Regardless of the weather Sker WI has still carried on with its programme of events and meetings, including weekly whist drives run by Muriel Stubbs.

February's meeting featured an interesting demonstration of needle felting presented by guest speaker Eva Leslie and the month's competition, something beginning with 'L', was duly judged and points awarded as usual.

The March meeting opened on a very sad note when president Nora Williams announced the passing of our dear friend, Margaret Scanlon.

Margaret was a vibrant and active member of Sker WI for many years. She asked that WI members attending her funeral on March 9 sing Jerusalem, the anthem of Women's Institute.

Many remember Margaret as one of the core members of the kitchen team for the summer and winter fairs. She also had the unenviable task of organising the tea hostesses for the monthly meetings, something she did with her trademark charm and good humour.

Margaret will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and close friends at this time.

Nora also informed us of the passing of two of our older members, Audrey Griffiths and Gwyneth Lloyd.

Again, our thoughts and best wishes go out to the family of both of these ladies.

After a minute's silence the meeting was resumed, albeit with a heavier heart than usual.

It is traditionally the time of year to look at upcoming events for outings and Judith Morris was very busy taking bookings and payment from members going to the theatre (*Crazy For You*, Swansea Grand Theatre, on May 2); attending the birthday supper (Hi-Tide, April 23) or a day out to Cwm Deri Vineyard for a talk, wine tasting and lunch on May 23.

Members are to attend the Link Meeting on April 20 hosted by Mynydd Cynfig WI; Cwm Brombil Ladies WI event takes place at Margam Abbey on May 11 'Women in World War One' and the WI Council Meeting in Port Talbot on April 24.

Muriel Stubbs was also trying to encourage members to take part in the annual Glamorgan Show, this year taking place on July 21.

The guest speaker, John Sheen, helped to lift our mood.

The uncle of the actor Michael Sheen, John was a brilliant and funny story teller who thoroughly entertained us with his presentation 'Five Boys and a Pasty'.

He was able to draw on his experiences as a primary school teacher and headteacher, as well as a player and director in amateur operatic societies and the Dolman Theatre in Newport.

A vote of thanks was given with the hope that John would pay us

another visit in the not too distant future.

John also judged this month's competition, 'Something beginning with M', which was won by Brenda Mahoney, second was Audrey Ellams and third was Marian Millis.

This year's programme is filled with exciting and intriguing guest speakers, enjoyable activities and more chances to learn new things with friends old and new.

The next meeting will

be on April 12 at 7pm in St David's Church Hall, Nottage Village.

The competition will be 'something beginning with N' and the guest speaker will be Linda, who will be showing everyone how to belly dance!

You will be made very welcome if you want to come along to join us for a visit.

Find out more on our Facebook page: SkerWI @NottageVillage.

CB

Pharmacy beats Storm Emma



A path had to be cleared to the pharmacy in Brynmawr.

THE team at Well Pharmacy on Brynmawr's Beaufort Street battled through a snow drift to provide patients with essential medication recently.

Anne Glover, the pharmacy's manager, said: "Getting our patients the medication they need is our number-one priority, and my team worked tirelessly to ensure that the extreme

weather didn't stop us from opening business as usual.

"We couldn't have done it without our amazing councillor, Wayne Hodgins, who really went above and beyond for the local community."

"He helped dig our pharmacist's car out of the snow, and even drove our delivery driver in his 4x4 to reach patients in remote locations that were hit even harder by the storm than Brynmawr."

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Youth club celebrates 20 years

WICK Youth Club is celebrating 20 years of service to the youth of the Vale this month.

Volunteers from the community, listening to the requests from young people, opened Wick Youth Club and it's still going strong today.

To mark the anniversary a celebratory event will be held at the Star Inn, Wick on Tuesday, March 27 at 6pm.

At the same time, a new project will be launched –

'Harry's Blue Sky Award' – which will recognise the contribution made to the club by Harry Westcott, a young member who passed away last year. Each year a young person who has made a significant contribution to the club will receive the award.

Have you been a member or volunteer at Wick Youth Club over the last 20 years? Former members and supporters of the club are very welcome to attend; email wickyouthclub@live.co.uk to confirm attendance.

Conway Hawkins, Senior Youth Worker

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WI ‘celebrates 35 years of fun and friendship’



Aberkenfig and District WI president Eunice Williams congratulates Margaret Crocker on her recent birthday.

ABERKENFIG and District WI celebrated 35 years of fun and friendship with the young, and not so young, this year.

President Eunice Williams was delighted to congratulate Margaret Crocker on her 96th birthday. Margaret is an inspiration to Aberkenfig members and regularly walks to meetings and uses her bus pass to explore and visit all over south Wales.

The WI may be for adults only, but Aberkenfig members believe in spreading the word and reaching out to all. They were delighted when Tondy Primary School choir agreed to help them celebrate spring with a medley of songs from a moving ‘Edelweiss’ to an action packed ‘Sospas Fach’. The children enjoyed squash and biscuits and learnt about the WI and its members in return.

Future celebrations include a spring bonnet parade, a visit from The Dogs Trust and a talk on the historic iron works at Tondy from local enthusiast Peter Jones.

Some members can make jam and know a verse or two of ‘Jerusalem’, but they are looking forward to doing an awful lot more in 2018.

They will be letting their hair down with a day at Chepstow Races, taxing their brains with a treasure hunt in Porthcawl and even improving their driving skills.

There is a lot to do locally and further afield, thanks to the hard work of the Glamorgan Federation of the Women’s Institute and the enthusiasm of the members.

To find out more see Facebook: www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomeninstitute, or contact secretary Sheila Gunston on 01656 723002.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
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THE recent S4C programme *Bras, Botox a’r Bleidlais* prompted an unusual meeting at Southerndown – the local women’s motorcycle club.

To mark the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote, actress and author Ffion Dafis embarked on a personal journey to see how much has actually changed for women today.

The motorbike riders were all local members of the national motorcycle club for women, ‘Curvy Riders’.

The local group is led by Cowbridge artist Sue McDonough.

For more information, visit www.curvyriders.co.uk



Schools brush up their Shakespeare with ESU

THE south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union held the Welsh final of its ‘Performing Shakespeare’ competition at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff last month.

School pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 had previously sent video clips of performances of Shakespearean monologues or dialogues to the ESU and a shortlist of 12 performances was prepared for the final.

Schools from Bridgend, Birchgrove, Swansea and Cardiff were represented and the students chose to perform extracts from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*.

The ESU is most grateful to the college for their hospitality and the pupils really appreciated visiting and performing at this venue. A high standard was achieved and the two winning teams, from Ysgol Gyfun Gymreig Bryn Tawe, will now go forward to represent Wales at the UK finals at the Wyndham Theatre in London on March 20.



The Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Morfudd Meredith, with two of the winners.

The Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Morfudd Meredith, was a guest and presented the prizes to the winning teams. The president of the south Wales branch of the ESU, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, presented certificates to the participants.

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Soroptimists walk through the cold for International Women's Day



Bridgend monthly street market resumes



THE first of this year's monthly street markets in Bridgend town centre will be held on Saturday, March 17 with chalets selling food, crafts and other products.

A number of local businesses and traders from further afield will be selling their wares on Caroline Street, with 'Dough To Go', 'The Craft Hand' and 'Good and Proper

Brownies' among the new stallholders joining the returning regulars from last year such as 'Wales Ales'. The street market has been organised by Bridgend County Borough Council with support from town centre traders who are part of the 'CF31' group, and will take place from 10am-4pm. Street markets will take place on the third Saturday of each month until October. CS

'Scores on the doors' disability access rating suggested

CALLS have been made for the Welsh Government to do more to improve access to buildings for disabled people.

This comes after figures show that over 90 per cent of disabled people are concerned about access to building and places.

Suzi Davies, Welsh Conservative AM for south Wales west, said: "I have written to Welsh Government's Health Secretary asking him for an update on what he is doing to improve disabled access across Wales."

The AM received positive responses from Welsh Government when she held a debate calling for a disabled access 'scores on the doors' scheme in Wales, inspired by a Bridgend charity's ideas.

"Just over a month ago, the Health

Secretary responded to my calls by saying that he 'welcomed' the proposal of a disabled access rating system for Wales.

"Since then the charity Euan's Guide has found that 92 per cent of disabled people do not feel very confident in visiting new places when thinking about disabled access."

The Access Survey, carried out each year by the charity Euan's Guide, also found that confidence is lower in Wales than in the rest of the UK.

Recent finding from Wales' Children's Commissioner, Sally Holland, back this up as well.

Her latest report stated Welsh Government's guidance to help schools meet disabled access needs is "out of date." Welsh Government had promised to update their guidance, published in

2004, by the summer of 2017, which has not happened.

Earlier this year, disability action group Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People launched a petition calling for a 'scores on the doors' style rating system for disabled access to businesses and public services.

The petition, which now has over 2,000 signatures online alone, is open until March 31. If the petition reaches 5,000 signatures then a full Assembly debate will be held on the proposals.

Mrs Davies added: "I had hoped that we would have an explanation from Welsh Government about how they are going to turn their warm words towards my debate and Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People's petition into action."

"These latest figures, coupled with the Children's Commissioner's new report, show just how important it that we see action from Welsh Government." SS

SOME of the members of Bridgend Soroptimist Club defied winter temperatures and took part in a bracing walk on the seafront at Porthcawl to mark International Women's Day, and 100 years since the start of the Suffragette movement.

Starting at Coney Beach they walked the section of the Wales Coastal Path as far as Rest Bay before adjourning for a welcome hot cup of coffee at The Atlantic.

At a recent supper/speaker meeting held at The Heronston

Hotel, retired traffic police officer Steve Gorwill entertained our ladies with many tales of his experiences with the force - some were thought-provoking but most were of a hilarious nature.

A very pleasant evening indeed with good food and humour. The next supper/speaker meeting will feature Emma Anthony from Ty Hafan as the guest speaker.

For more information contact secretary Page Mirjorie sibriddendsecretary@hotmail.co.uk.

Eileen Bayley



Huw Edwards (pictured with Lena Charles) is a patron of Bridgend Male Choir and Cancer Research Wales, one of the charities who will benefit from the proceeds of the evening.

Birthday celebrations at Pontycymer's Capel Tabernacl

TABERNACL CHAPEL in Pontycymer was the venue for the 100th birthday celebration concert for Lena Charles, who has given a lifetime of service to the Garw Valley.

The compere for the evening was Bridgend-born BBC news anchor, presenter and journalist Huw Edwards, who made a welcome return to Pontycymer.

Huw had saved his greatest praise for Garw Valley native Lena, who had been honoured by the Queen for her service to the community.

Huw presented a brief history of Lena's contribution to the Garw Valley. He was genuinely praiseworthy of all contributors during the evening, revealing his pride in his Welsh heritage throughout.

The sell-out concert opened with the award-winning Bridgend Male Choir,

under the baton of musical director Ryan Wood and support team of Stephanie Bailey (piano) and Scott Williams (organ).

The choir entertained with timeless classics such as 'Calon Lan' and 'Cwm Rhondda' and the uplifting 'Christus Salvador'.

'Tell my Father', a story of a father and son relationship at the American Civil War, was preceded by a narration of the Gettysburg Address by chorister Dr Peter Morgan.

Blaengarw Primary School Choir and Angharad and Meinir, a versatile harp and vocal duo, also entertained.

The content was varied with the haunting 'Anfonaf Angel' alongside Handel's 'Rinaldo', 'My Little Welsh Home' and 'Bill' from *Showboat*.

'Gwahoddiad' was sung as an encore with 'Penblwydd Hapus Lena' and 'Hen Wlad Fy'n Hadau' brought the evening's entertainment to a close.

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Big Toddle raises £12,000 to help vulnerable children

CHILDREN across Wales have toddled their way towards raising almost £12,000 to help Barnardo's Cymru transform the lives of vulnerable youngsters.

The under-fives from nurseries, playgroups, families and schools joined last year's Big Toddle run by Barnardo's, the UK's leading children's charity. It is hoped that even more groups will sign up for this year's fundraiser, which takes place from June 18-24.

Among those planning an event is Porthcawl mum of two, Celyn Astrauskas, whose toddler last year raised a remarkable £2,800. She is organising an event along the town's promenade on Saturday, June 23.

Celyn said: "Being involved in The Big Toddle was so much fun. I had a great time and so did everyone who joined in. We raised a brilliant amount of money, which was so rewarding."

"Barnardo's do so much fantastic work to support children and families, it's a really worthy cause, one



Some of the Porthcawl toddlers with their mums.

everyone can get behind. If you have a bit of spare time on your hands, arrange a local Toddle, get those little legs exercising and raise some money!"

For the second consecutive year, the Big Toddle is being run in partnership with the

much-loved CBeebies TV show, Teletubbies. This year's theme is 'Nature', with lots of opportunities for creative dressing up as animals, insects, flowers or jungle creatures.

People signing up to the Big Toddle can access exclusive nature-themed

early years learning resources including the Teletubbies on the Barnardo's website.

Parents and carers are being encouraged to get involved by organising their own event, whether it's a community Big Toddle or one for families and

friends.

Barnardo's Cymru director Sarah Crawley said: "The Big Toddle is an important way of helping us continue our vital work supporting vulnerable children, young people, parents and carers."

Barnardo's Cymru works with more than 8,000 individual young people and families in 94 specialised projects in communities across Wales. This includes work with children affected by today's most urgent issues: poverty, homelessness, disability, bereavement and abuse.

Last year's other top Welsh fundraisers included: St Peter's Playgroup, Dinas Powys, £225; Clych Meithrin Tabernacl, Bridgend, £154; Butterflies Play Group, Barry, £326.45 and Fun Foundation Day Nursery, Cowbridge, £397.

Those who register will receive a Big Toddle pack containing information and fundraising ideas. Go to www.bigtoddle.co.uk or call 0800 008 7005 to register or find out more.

Golden plover rescued from Porthcawl garden

A FLIGHTLESS golden plover has been rescued by the RSPCA after being spotted stranded in a Porthcawl garden.

It was walking around the garden for approximately four days, but made no attempt to fly away, or lift its wings.

The charity was alerted to the bird's situation, and the charity collected the underweight bird.

Officers noticed the bird had a dirty beak, indicating attempts had been made to forage.

The bird was kept locally in the care of the charity, where it gained weight on a diet of earthworms and mealworms, before being transferred to specialist wildlife facilities where rehabilitation is ongoing. One of the charity's animal collection officer, Ellie West, said: "We're so pleased we were able



The golden plover is receiving specialist care in Taunton.

to help this golden plover, which was found unable to properly fly in a Porthcawl garden.

"Golden plover are not that rare but the residents must have been shocked to see this beautiful creature running around their garden for some while.

"Fortunately, the golden plover responded very well to our immediate care, and it is now at our specialist facilities in Taunton for rehabilitation.

"We hope to be able to return this bird to the wild as soon as possible."

AS

KPC Youth's 'milestone'

KPC Youth and Community will celebrate running for 20 years in 2018.

Formed as a charity on March 28, 1998, the doors opened on November 28 that year working with young people, and a celebration is planned later this year.

Leading up to the celebration the group would love to have input, anecdotes and stories from past

members, staff, volunteers, and supporters on what KPC has meant to them; and would like evidence of how it has helped in the area.

KPC Youth and Community would also like to pass on thanks to everyone who has supported them over the years and helped to reach this milestone.

Telephone 01656 749219 or email kpcyouth@hotmail.com for more information.

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The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Steel.

A closing date for notification of bladder cancer claims has been set by the Court as 23 April 2018.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a British Steel coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell urgently. They will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

You may instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, and if you do it will be their responsibility to submit notice on behalf of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell and to the Defendants, before the closing date for notification of claims.

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Tree planting for International Women's Day

A TREE planting event organised by Mel Stewart, site ranger at Porthkerry Park, took place on International Women's Day (March 8), where five saplings were planted in what was described as a "symbolic gesture connecting Wales with Africa."

"The planting also highlighted the concerns of climate change across the world."

The first sapling was planted by Hellen Nkuraiya, a Maasai leader from Kenya who has spent her life rescuing girls from female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

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BBC researcher is convicted of a drink-driving offence

A BBC drama researcher was found to have more than three times the legal limit of alcohol in his system when he pulled into a layby on the M4, Cardiff Crown Court has heard, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Charles Jackson (27) had been seen driving erratically out of Cardiff towards the motorway and when an off-duty special constable approached his vehicle when it stopped at traffic lights, Jackson accelerated away, causing the officer to fall and suffer slight injuries, said prosecutor Jason Howells.

Jackson, who wept throughout the hearing, of West Road, Nottage, Porthcawl, had no previous convictions and had admitted charges of dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol.

He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for a year, ordered to take part in a rehabilitation activity and was placed on an electronically-tagged curfew from 9pm to 5am for six months.

He was also disqualified from driving for two years and ordered to take an extended driving test.

In addition, he was ordered to pay costs of £340 and to pay the Special Constable Rhys Mack of Quaker's Yard £500 compensation.

Mr Howells said that on September 23, Jackson was spotted driving along North Road, meandering and veering between lanes.

Mr Mack was a passenger in a car behind and saw Jackson almost mount a kerb and to the officer he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol.

He tried to get Jackson to stop the engine, but he accelerated away, causing Mr Mack to fall.

He eventually stopped 25 miles later at Junction 37 on the M4.

Jackson was arrested and said: "What dangerous driving? What injuries? What do you mean?"

He was later found to have 108 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 ml of blood. The limit is 35µg.

He told officers he had earlier drunk eight or nine pints of lager, had an alcohol problem and had intended to take a taxi home. When told to stop driving, he said, he panicked and had travelled at speeds of up to 80mph on the M4.

"He was apologetic and remorseful," said Mr Howells.

His counsel, Lisa Wilson, said: "He is under no illusion as to how serious these offences are. He stopped voluntarily."

She said he had sought assistance with his alcoholism and had stopped drinking entirely.

She described him as a 'vulnerable person' who had suffered from depression and had received great support from his family and partner.

"He acknowledges his liberty deserves to be restricted."

Recorder Richard Williams commended the special constable who had acted in the "best public interest".

Pebble-painting proves successful for autism group

AN 'Autism Rocks awareness' group has been set up on Facebook by mums in Barry who have children with autism.

The group already has almost 200 members who use it as a forum to exchange information on the condition.

The group's introduction explains: "Jumping on the rock/pebble-finding bandwagon we thought we would create this group to help spread awareness of autism while having fun painting, hiding and finding rocks or pebbles."



The group spreads awareness of autism while having fun painting, hiding and finding rocks or pebbles.

Cardiff Bus to introduce contactless payment

PAYING for your journey on Cardiff Bus will become easier with the introduction of contactless payment technology across its entire network from March 25.

This follows a successful trial period across the bus operator's Baycar, 27, 57 and 58 services over the past few months.

The contactless payment technology will complement existing payment methods, including mobile and online payment options via the iFF card portal, as well as its direct debit scheme, allowing greater flexibility and choice for millions of customers who choose Cardiff Bus.

It is hoped the new payment method will help speed up boarding and improve journey times, commercial manager of Cardiff Bus, Gareth Stevens, said.

Mr Stevens added: "We are delighted to be launching the contactless card payment option across our entire network of bus services. This will provide our customers with even more ways to pay for their travel, continuing our investment in alternative payment technologies."

"With mobile ticketing, online payment and our direct debit scheme, there are already a number of ways customers can pay before they board a bus, some of which offer a discount to fares on the day of purchase."

"This additional payment option gives more flexibility, meaning our customers will no longer need to worry about having enough cash when they board our buses."

Customers with any questions about the new contactless payment technology from Cardiff Bus or queries about any other payments can visit www.cardiffbus.com/

advertisement feature

Diarrhoea, flatulence or abdominal pain?

The riddle of recurring intestinal problems

The cause of recurring intestinal problems often resembles a guessing game – for doctors as well as for people affected. Recently, research has shown: in many cases the reason is an irritated bowel, the so called Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Fortunately, there is a promising relief called Kijimea IBS. And it is now available in the UK.

For a long time, the causes of recurring intestinal problems were a mystery to scientists. Recently, they found a possible answer: symptoms such as diarrhoea, bloating, flatulence or abdominal pain could be a sign for an irritated bowel, the so called Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Today, experts are increasingly convinced that IBS may be caused by small damages in the intestinal barrier. These might allow pollutants and pathogens to enter the intestinal wall, triggering the typical IBS symptoms.

Effective help for IBS sufferers

The good news is, a group of renowned scientists made a discovery: A globally unique bifidobacterium (B. bifidum M1MBb75) – contained exclusively in Kijimea IBS. This bacterial strain attaches itself directly to the surface of the intestinal wall. Essentially, it covers the damaged

intestinal wall like a plaster and forms a protective layer.

Promising study results

The effectiveness of Kijimea IBS has been shown in a clinical study. During the study, most IBS symptoms did not only significantly improve due to Kijimea IBS, but in some cases also disappeared. Furthermore, the bifidobacterium included in Kijimea IBS is the only one worldwide that simultaneously showed an increase in the quality of life of most IBS patients.

Now available in the UK – Kijimea IBS

In many other countries, Kijimea IBS has already proven to be successful. This product is now available in the UK, too. Kijimea IBS is available over the pharmacist counter. It is prescription-free and has no known side effects.



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CHEFS USE BRAINS TO GET AHEAD



Brains' apprentice chefs at Cardiff and Vale College.

CARDIFF and Vale College (CAVC) has joined forces with SA Brain & Co Ltd to provide work-based learning for its chefs in pubs across Wales.

The partnership will allow the college to deliver apprenticeships in food production to train the next generation of chefs for Brains. The apprenticeship will be delivered across Wales by CAVC, working with partner organisations and follows a two-year top-to-bottom training strategy review by Brains.

Brains' kitchen skills

manager Nathan Evans said: "We have worked hard over the last two years to fully review the programmes that we offer our kitchen teams and ensure that we have the right apprenticeship programmes available for the skill base that we use. We have invested heavily in building our 'kitchen essentials' development programme that works in harmony with the standards and skills required to achieve the qualifications, meaning we have an end to end qualified pathway for all levels of chefs within our kitchens."

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Specsavers' teams up-skill awareness in glaucoma - the silent thief of sight

In the build up to World Glaucoma Week this week, Specsavers teams have been up-skilling to better support patients with the condition.

Often symptomless in its early stages, glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible sight loss. It is thought to affect 700,000 people in the UK today, but as many as 50% of cases are undiagnosed*.

In conjunction with the International Glaucoma Association, Specsavers has developed training for its retail teams to assist sufferers with their treatment. Specifically, they will be advising on how to effectively administer eye drops, which are crucial for managing the condition.

This new training complements the skills held by Specsavers' optometrists, who have collectively completed almost 5,000 postgraduate glaucoma accreditations since 2017, through a variety of accrediting bodies including Cardiff University and the College of Optometrists.

Alan Murphy was just 37 when a trip to Specsavers found the early stages of glaucoma. Thanks to early detection,



his condition is now managed by using eye drops daily.

Alan, now an advocate of regular eye tests and good eye health, believes early diagnosis and careful management has saved his sight. He says: 'I would strongly urge people to go for regular eye tests, and to make the most of the advice and support provided by their local optician.'

Karen Osborn, chief executive of IGA, says: 'The majority of people who are diagnosed early with glaucoma will retain useful sight for life. Most will be treated with medical eye drops. Unfortunately we know from calls to our helpline that many people aren't told about how to put the drop in the eye correctly, or aren't advised about the aids that are available to help them. We are delighted to work with Specsavers on this often over-looked aspect of glaucoma management.'

*RNIB State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017

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'RAISE A GLASS AND BE GRATEFUL TO FARMERS'

A GEM column by Rachel Saunders of the FUW

WE'RE half way through March and most of the population will be looking forward to a few days off over the Easter break, a little nugget of stress-free time that we look forward to after the long, dark winter. It's a celebration of food and family time, without the hassle of writing Christmas cards and shopping for presents.

The spring flowers have by now recovered from the recent blast of snow and ice, lambs and calves are out and about and maybe you'll start thinking about the Easter roast. So spare a thought for those who were out battling the weather just a few

weeks back here in Glamorgan across Wales, making sure we have a continued, safe supply of food on our supermarket shelves.

The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) has long argued that #FarmingMatters, not just because of a single farm and the food it produces, but because of all the other businesses that rely on the sector for their survival and who keep the wheels of the rural economy turning.

People need to understand the challenges, the physical and emotional effort that goes into producing food of the highest standard, while also managing resources to get the best from them. After all, our farmers are renowned worldwide for adhering to excellent animal health and welfare standards and producing food of exceptional quality.



Rachel Saunders of the FUW.

So if we don't want to see our supermarket shelves flooded with foreign imports, such as chlorine-washed chicken or rotten Brazilian beef, then we must make a real effort to support our farmers here at home.

The FUW will continue to highlight that support for agriculture is not simply support for farmers. The

support delivers an economic dividend of about 7:1, that is: for every £1 of support into agriculture, more than £7 of economic activity is generated. Let us not forget that Welsh agriculture's gross output is almost £1.5 billion and that food and drinks exports are worth £302 million to the economy of Wales.

If we want to see our Welsh family farms prosper in future and see them continuing to produce the food we all love so much, regardless of what market access we have, then we must ensure that the role they play is recognised by all.

Editor's note:
*The Mountain sheep are sweeter,
But the Valley sheep are fatter,
We therefore deemed it meet
To carry off the latter!*

More seriously, The GEM received a

number of letters thanking local farmers for their assistance during the recent snowstorms.

Such acts by these stewards of the land were replicated across rural areas in Wales and in the rest of the United Kingdom while they still performed their 'day job' of protecting their flocks, herds, crops, and livelihoods from the ravages of a late wintry blast.

Being stuck behind a tractor occasionally suddenly doesn't seem such a hardship.

GET ON YOUR BIKE FOR TENOVUS...

TENOVUS Cancer Care (TCC) is asking cyclists are tackling the popular CARTEN100 challenge to help raise vital funds towards its Closer to Home Appeal.

The appeal has been selected as one of the two charity partners for this year's CARTEN100, a 100-mile cycle ride from Cardiff to Tenby taking place on Saturday, May 12.

Both CARTEN100 organisers and TCC are inviting riders to collect money for the charity's appeal, which aims to raise £1 million to fund the build and initial running costs of a mobile support unit (MSU).

The MSU, the charity's third, will launch later this year and will be the largest mobile chemotherapy unit in the world. It is hoped that the challenge will help raise £50,000 towards the appeal.

A spokesperson said: "Riders will cover 100 miles on the day and by supporting the cancer charity, they will also be helping to save cancer patients from travelling miles for their treatment, reducing the stress and expense of travelling to hospital."

Sam Warburton, Welsh international rugby player and a patron of the appeal, said: "I've seen first-hand the difference the MSU make to cancer patients and their loved ones. They're so spacious, user friendly, convenient and comfortable. This is a great opportunity for CARTEN riders to get behind the charity and help shape the future of cancer treatment in Wales."

More information on the Closer to Home Appeal can be found at tenovuscancercare.org.uk/closetohome.

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100 STORIES FOR 100 YEARS FOR ST JOHN CYMRU

ST John Cymru needs your help to find 100 stories to celebrate '100 years of being there' for the people of Wales.

Formed on St David's Day in 1918, the nation's leading first aid charity was there to help wounded soldiers in World War One.

Over the decades, volunteers have supported Welsh communities through the lows, such as the Aberfan disaster, and through the highs of Wales' Grand Slam

wins.

Julia Hobbs, chief executive for St John Cymru, said: "It's an incredibly exciting year for us and I hope everyone will get behind our celebrations and share their stories with us."

"We have set up a special website to capture people's memories of St John Cymru over the last 100 years and we can't wait to find out how our volunteers have made a difference."

"You only have to look at the tremendous efforts of our volunteers during the extreme

snow conditions – getting patients and staff to and from hospital – to know we're as relevant today as we were 100 years ago."

"With the support of the people of Wales, we can make sure St John Cymru continues to be there."

The centenary celebrations will also tell the story of how St John Cymru volunteers helped to set up the 130th (St John) Field Ambulance during World War One.

A replica World War One ambulance will be taken to key events and schools, to share the

charity's history and to encourage more people to learn first aid.

Do you have a story to share?

Was a member of your family involved with the 130th (St John) Field Ambulance?

Have you been helped by our volunteers at an event and would like to say thank you?

Have you used the first aid skills that St John Cymru taught you in a real life emergency?

Are you taking part in a challenge to raise money for St John Cymru?

Share your stories at www.stjohn.wales/100 or tag us on Facebook and Twitter @StJohnWales using #SJCW100.

NFU's #SeeItChangeIt initiative aims to improve safety and wellbeing



The Rural Affairs Board vow to #SeeItChangeIt.

MEMBERS of the NFU Cymru Rural Affairs Board have joined the NFU's farm safety

campaign #SeeItChangeIt.

The campaign, which was launched at the NFU Conference in Birmingham, is the latest initiative to improve safety and wellbeing on farms and aims to get farmers actively looking for risks on farm and using simple cost-effective ways to eliminate them.

During the recent Rural Affairs Board meeting each member of the board filled out a campaign 'promise card', selecting one thing they would do to improve their safety and wellbeing on their farm.

NFU Cymru Rural Affairs Board chairman, Hedd Pugh, said: "It is

widely acknowledged that the safety record in the farming sector needs improving, and there are simple but specific practices that we can change ourselves."

"We all have a part to play in improving safety and wellbeing on farms and this campaign aims to get farmers actively looking for risks and doing something about it: whether it's a promise to check their PTO shaft every week, wear a helmet every time they ride an ATV, note their OS grid reference to use in emergencies or simply to keep their mobile phone charged and on their person."

"It must also be noted that the mental wellbeing of farmers is

just as important as physical safety. Stress and depression are among many other illnesses that can massively impact your life and work, and we must be able to recognise when we need help."

"Members of the Rural Affairs Board have pledged to take these messages back to their respective counties to ensure farm safety is at the forefront of everyone's minds when carrying out their day-to-day tasks on farm."

"We urge you all to get behind this campaign and use it to make one change that will improve your own wellbeing and that of the farming industry." AS

FES celebrates one year at Llandow

FOUNDED in 1981 by current managing director Ieuan Thomas, Fasteners and Engineering Supplies (FES) has enjoyed steady growth and expansion.

FES started in a small Portakabin at the rear of 5 Westgate Street, Cowbridge, selling nuts and bolts to local industries. Today FES has two depots – one in Caldicot and its head office in the Vale Business Park, Llandow.

FES is more than a nut and bolt stockist now, with a huge range of engineering consumables and tools.

FES now stocks major brands like Dewalt, Stanley, Bahco, Irwin, Draper, Abracs Abrasives, Alpen

Drills, Starrett, HMT Holemaker Technology, Timco woodscrews, Everbuild, Action Can and an ever-expanding range of welding wire and consumables as well as PPE and janitorial supplies.

To celebrate our one year anniversary at our new head office in Llandow, we welcome all customers old and new to join us at an open day.

We will be having lots of special offers, and there will be demonstrations from Dewalt, Timco, Draper and HMT.

There will be free bacon rolls, teas and coffee and a raffle to win a tool selection for all people attending.

Call in on Friday, March 23 to Unit 39D Vale Business Park, first turning after the Ford garage. CS

Open Day at People First
VALE People First active communities group is holding an open day at Barry Civic Offices in the Corporate Suite on Tuesday, March 20 from 10am – 2pm.

Information stalls from public services and professionals; disability awareness training; sandwiches/cakes/tea/coffee and a raffle.

The group is looking for new members. Come and join us and find out more. AS

Nearly New sale

A nearly-new sale will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Wednesday, March 21 from 2.15pm until 3.30pm. Entry 50p, (to include tea /coffee). Plenty of bargains, sizes small to 3XX for men and women. Come along and find yourself one. All proceeds to charity.

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Rare sighting of village bus

I CLAIM my prize for being the first to get sight of the V5 village bus which has not been seen for years.

I spotted it the other day at the bottom of a cavernous pothole in the road into Penmark coming from the British Airways roundabout.

I can only speculate as to what lies in the many other such holes in the same road.

Sadly, despite using it daily for years, I have failed to spot a single cyclist using the cycle lanes on the same roundabout, so generously provided for them (at our expense) some years back.

Anthony Burke, Penmark.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: **The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Thanks to Tanners Cardiff'

I WOULD just like to pass on my sincere thanks for the very kind loan of the Isuzu 4.4 vehicle that Mr Tanner of Isuzu Tanners Cardiff gave to St John Cymru-Wales during the recent inclement weather.

This vehicle was used to transport staff and volunteers to ensure they could travel from home to work safely.

Without this vehicle we would have been unable to provide assistance to the Welsh Ambulance Service or our local health boards.

It is lovely that companies like yours decide to support local charities in this way.

Once again, thank you very much.

Ashley Jones, St John Cymru-Wales.



'Helped after accident'

PLEASE express my heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful people who came to help me when I had a sledging accident on Marine Drive hill in Barry, on Friday, March 2.

I had hit a tree head first and was briefly unconscious with severe back and chest pain.

Glenn, Andrew, Lars, Duncan and lots of others stayed with me, kept me

warm then carried me to Gill and Rob's house on Heol y Bryn before an ambulance arrived.

Thank you to all those who helped giving their expertise, kindness, time and good spirits getting me through that painful time.

I am also very grateful to Ashley at Business Drive Wales – the only taxi service braving the snow ferrying patients and staff from The Heath hospital – for getting me home.

I am slowly recovering.
Sophie Conway, Barry.

PACT meetings

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' which is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, between 10am and 12 noon?

PENARTH police officers will be holding a 'drop in' session at Penarth police station on Thursday, March 22 between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

LLANDOW/EWENNY coffee and chat will be held at the Lamb and Flag, St Brides, on Tuesday, March 20 at 11am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.

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90 Day Notice	£5,000	£1	1.10%
Cash ISA	£1	£1	1.10%
Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.00%
Young Saver	£1	£1	2.00%
First Adult Saver (only available to customers aged 18 to 32 years old)	£1	£1	1.25%

(Please Note the Swan Premier (closed) no longer exists and all existing accounts have been transferred to the Personal Premier account)

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* AER Stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year.

* GROSS The Gross rate is the contractual rate of interest before the deduction of income tax.

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French rugby invasion of Bridgend this weekend!



ON the eve of Wales v France this Friday, March 16, a group of 40-strong French rugby tourists from Les Blazer Bleus will come to Bridgend to celebrate a friendship spanning 25 years.

The first trip started in 1993/94 and has gone from strength from year to year, although when the French first arrived in Bridgend they came to play Brackla RFC, whose president was local estate agent Mr Gareth L Edwards. Things obviously changed and although Brackla RFC stopped playing in the latter years, the trip continued increase in popularity; no one envisaged the friendship and rugby would still be going. With great pride, Brackla RFC have recently set back up and continued their success.

A big factor within this friendship was help and assistance from other clubs, with Bridgend Athletic always stepping in to give a warm welcome to ensure the visit went smoothly.

In previous years, South Wales Police RFC have stepped in to ensure this friendship grew and have offered their

playing facilities and playing kit all free of charge. A huge thank you must go to Lindsay Griffiths, honorary secretary of South Wales Police RFC.

Over the past few years, Heol Y Cyw RFC have come on board and this year will see us again visit Heol Y Cyw RFC.

The game will be played on Saturday, March 17 at the Woodlands playing field in Pencoed, kick-off 10.30am; this is a last minute change due to problems at Heol Y Cyw changing rooms.

However, everyone will go back to Heol Y Cyw RFC after the game to watch the other internationals, where presentations will take place and a hog roast will be on offer.

For the Wales v France game, the group will move on to Bridgend Athletic and would like to thank the club and Andrew Tellum for organising this.

Fred Pope, former president and chairman of Brackla RFC said that had been a fantastic achievement to keep the relationship going for over 25 years, but also shows how great the game of rugby is to ensure friendship and sport will continue and people will become great friends for

life.

The game has become a veterans' game, with tourists' children now arriving in Bridgend and Bridgend children going to France, the games are always now mixed ages.

For the French side, Pierre Boudgues, Alain Coville, Vincent Estarit and president Christian Girou have been instrumental in keeping this trip going.

Special thanks must go to Fred Pope for his continued support, Helen at the Coity Castle, Mark at the Haywain, and Aberavon RFC who will welcome everyone to the Talbot Athletic Ground on the Friday evening as their guests.

A huge thank you must go to Toby Hemsley, whose support and generosity ensures that this event goes ahead every year and is supported so well in both Paris and Bridgend.

Whoever wins the 'man of the match' trophy this year will collect the Bernard Farre special trophy.

Rugby - the game that builds friendships!

Lions plan their 2018 calendar

PORTHCAWL LIONS are beginning their 2018 events planning meetings and they are taking place sometimes more than one a day, so it's all go for the Lions!

In addition to their well supported May Fayre on Monday, May 7 in All Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, they are also taking entries for their charity golf event at the Grove Golf

Club on June 1.

There are also car boot sales starting in May at Porthcawl Rugby ground on Sunday mornings.

Following on from the charity events is the Vintage Fayre on Saturday, August 4 at Porthcawl Lions Rugby ground.

Details of all forthcoming events are detailed on the Porthcawl Lions web page, www.porthcawllions.org

The Lions always welcome new members;

contact membership officer Jim on 01656 859595.

The Lions meet at the Hi Tide in Mackworth Road at 8pm on the first and third Tuesday of the month. **DR**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poetry in Porthcawl

THE next reader at Porthcawl's Green Room, Sustainable Wales, 5 James Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BG, is poet and musician, Paul Henry, launching his new collection, *The Glass Aisle* at 8pm on Friday, March 30.

Paul's tenth book will delight everyone with its assured lyricism. Entry £4, everyone welcome.

Sister Act in Porthcawl

PAODS presents Sister Act at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl from Thursday, April 26 to Saturday, April 28 at 7.30pm nightly, plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Tickets (£12 downstairs, £14 balcony, child/concession £10) from PAODS Ticket Line 01656 788148 or pavilion box office on 01656 815995.

Bridgend Quiz League news and teasers

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. Name the actress who played Nora Batty in 'Last of the Summer Wine'?

2. What is the lowest female singing voice called?

3. Where on Earth are 'The mountains of the moon'?

The latest results from the Bridgend Quiz League are:

Laleston Inn A 38, Mackworth Arms 45; Ty

Risha Royals 39, Tondra Railway Club 53; Penybont FC Nomads 47, Five Bells A 42; Cabo Roche 54, Oddfellows Arms Bettws 34; Five Bells B 56, Pheasant Gamekeepers 45; Prince of Wales Coychurch 51, Chatterton Shunters 51; Pheasant Poachers 53, Laleston Inn B 50. **SK**

Answers:
1. Kathy Staff.
2. Contralto.
3. Uganda.

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DECHREUWCH
MIS MEDI HWN



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BRAVED THE WEATHER

IWOULD like to thank everyone who turned up in the recent spell of bad weather.

The help I received from CareMark, especially those who walked to me in hazardous conditions, was amazing, thank you so much.

I would also like to thank my neighbours, who brought me a hot meal, and those who ventured out to get me shopping. My thanks to you all for your kindness and generosity.

Kathleen Lougher, Bonvilston.

Remember when?

HOW many remember when Bruce Forsyth performed at the Stoneleigh nightclub in Porthcawl in the early 1970s, what a fabulous evening's entertainment it was, the wife and I had just started courting then and were absolutely enthralled by this irreplaceable personality.

On another occasion, who remembers when Roy Rogers, yes 'The King of the Cowboys', visited Crossways Hospital along with his horse Trigger in the '50s?

Jeff Warner, Llantrithyd.

The milkman of human kindness

AS one who finds old age makes it difficult to cope with extremely cold weather these days, I would like to place on record my thanks to my milkman from Jones Dairies in Barry.

He ensured I had my usual Friday milk

delivery one day early by driving his milk float through blizzard conditions in the dark last Thursday night.

Hopefully, he was able to enjoy a lie-in on Friday as his reward.

Also, I am fortunate in having caring neighbours who ensured I had a sufficient food supply.

Many thanks to all.
W Haydn Burgess, Barry.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Modern rail network fails in poor weather

BBRITISH Rail recently cancelled trains on many parts of its services in anticipation of snow. In some areas, that snow didn't arrive.

What will they do next – shut the system down in the autumn on the assumption falling leaves will cause disruption?

Back in the winters of 1947 and 1963, the so-called 'Big Freeze' arrived in the UK. One of the coldest on record, the snow drifts reached 20ft in some places and wind speeds of 81mph. There were news reports of a car driven over the river in Oxford as rivers and lakes froze.

At the time, my journey to Cardiff's Canton locomotive shed normally took 20 minutes on my motorcycle. In these conditions, it took one hour to arrive in work.

Canton shed was a hive of activity, with the priority keeping the all-important water supply from freezing. This was done by coal-fired stoves with large chimneys, situated under the water cranes. These supplied up to 4,000 gallons to the loco tenders.

Small stoves under the injector pipes kept them clear for the day to enable the fireman to put water in the engine boiler.

With more manpower available at the time, problems on the main lines could be sorted manually, plus snow ploughs attached to steam locos provided a strong back up.

In those days, signal boxes were manned every

few miles and if a signal were to break, the signalman would lean out of the window with a green flag to keep things moving.

Nowadays, if a green signal fails out in the wilderness, everything is electrically linked and as we have seen, causing chaos to passengers.

So much for modernisations.

Tony Nicholas, Barry.

'Kindness shown by neighbours'

LIKE the couple from the village of Monkash, we would like to endorse the kindness and hard work our farming neighbours showed us during the recent snow drifts.

We live in Broughton next door to Monkash – I had to attend an appointment at the hospital for cancer check-up on Monday, and had it not been for the kind farmer and his son who cleared our lane, I wouldn't have been able to attend this appointment.

Thank you so much to all the farmers who go the extra mile to help the local community.

The council should compensate the farmers who work hard during these difficult times.
(Name and address supplied.)

Grateful thanks to all who assisted

IWOULD like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful people who came to help me when I had a sledging accident on Marine Drive hill in Barry on Friday, March 2.

I hit a tree head first and was briefly unconscious with severe back and chest pain.

Glenn, Andrew, Lars, Duncan and lots of others stayed with me, kept me warm then

carried me to Gill and Rob's house on Heol y Bryn before an ambulance arrived.

Thank you to all those who helped giving their expertise, kindness, time and good spirits getting me through that painful time.

I am also very grateful to Ashley at Business Drive Wales, who was the only taxi service braving the snow ferrying patients and staff from the Heath hospital for getting me home. I am slowly recovering.

Sophie Conway, Barry.

'Keeping Barry clean is a shared responsibility'

IT is good news that the Barry Town Council will begin a campaign this month for a spring clean in the town.

More power to their elbows, but it would be even better news if the Vale Council indicated support by cleaning our bus shelters, some of which have been sprayed with graffiti – not just for months, but in some cases years – like my local at Williams' Stores.

It may be a good idea to involve our schools, maybe a competition along the lines of 'bin the graffiti'.

Our parks are a credit to the town and wonders have been done on the Island, but many of our old folk would welcome some seats on King Square, and outside the bus stops.

Nevertheless, Barry is a good place to live and I think we all have a part to play in keeping it clean.

David Lloyd, Barry.

REINVENTING THE CONSERVATORY ROOF REPLACEMENT & CONSERVATORY UPGRADE OPTIONS

As few as five years ago, polycarbonate would have been the main choice for a conservatory roof.

While letting plenty of light in, some found that their conservatories could be too bright in summer, while cool in winter.

Building technology has moved on, and there are now two solid roofs that can convert a conservatory

The first is a lightweight, tiled roof that takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these conservatory roofs can achieve a U value of just 0.16, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

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'Help Me Quit' campaign launched

FROM March 12, pharmacies across Wales will be running the NHS stop smoking campaign Help Me Quit in support of National No Smoking Day, which was on March 14.

Community pharmacists and their staff have been asked by NHS Wales to talk to their customers about smoking and help signpost them to free stop smoking support.

Smoking is the greatest risk factor for the burden of disease and continues to be the largest single cause of ill health and avoidable death in Wales. It causes approximately 5,450 deaths and costs the Welsh NHS an estimated £302 million each year.

Over recent years overall smoking



**Kate Thomas,
owner of Sylvia
Williams Chemist.**

prevalence has fallen to 19 per cent in Wales, with rates being much higher in the most deprived areas. Welsh Government has set a target of reducing smoking prevalence to below 16 per cent by 2020.

National surveys indicate that 68 per cent

of smokers would like to stop smoking and 41 per cent have tried to quit in the past year. Evidence suggests that smokers are four times more likely to quit successfully by using a combination of licensed stop smoking medication and behavioural support in comparison to quitting unaided.

There are a number of Help Me Quit services across Wales. Clients can receive support with a 'stop smoking expert' in one to one sessions face to face, or over the telephone, or by quitting with other smokers.

Community pharmacists and their staff can help you access these services. Call in for advice or contact Help Me Quit directly on 0800 085 2219; www.helpmequit.wales or text HMQ to 80818.

**Kate Thomas,
Sylvia Williams
Chemist**

Vale Photographic Club in competition



LAST month we had a varied programme and still have more to come this month.

We started off with a break from photography and enjoyed our annual club dinner in Cowbridge. Great food, wine and company – what more could anyone ask for?

Back to the photographic grindstone and the following week was our annual seven-way battle with six other clubs.

Although we call it a battle it's all very friendly and we welcome our friends from neighbouring clubs to an evening of great pictures.

All clubs put forward their best work so the quality of images was stunning. The judge, Brian Swinyard from Worcester, awarded more

20s (the highest mark possible) than we've ever known before so the scoring was incredibly close.

The winning club by a margin of two points was Rhonda Camera Club with six '20s'. We managed four '20s' and came in third, just four points behind them.

The following week we had a presentation from the ex-Cardiff-based explorer and adventurer Ade Summers.

He travels to some of the wildest parts of the world to meet the local inhabitants and find out how they live. He described the Wakhi and Kyrgys, nomadic people of the Wakhan Corridor in one of the remotest parts of Afghanistan and in particular their game of buzhkashi, played on horseback and involving a headless goat.

Admittedly a bit grim but it's an ancient custom which helps maintain friendly relations with neighbouring groups.

The rules – well there don't seem to be any but the elders somehow manage to keep some kind of score and award 'ribbons' to successful riders.

Our fourth monthly competition took place the following week with another record number of entries.

Yes, it's a competition but it's a friendly event. It's an opportunity to see the work of fellow members and talk about what was involved in creating the image.

Sometimes they are virtually straight out of camera but more often than not a few tweaks and adjustments are involved and members willingly share their techniques.

More information about our club, where we meet and the programme for the rest of the year can be found on our website: www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk. There is always a warm welcome for new members.

CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY



See more on
pages 22 and 23!

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Yes, we need independent shops, supermarkets and car dealers, but we often need specialist services and expert advice.

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time, so why not ask for a brochure for a new composite door with many colours to choose from?

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No family or friends to attend funeral of former Merchant Seaman - will you?

THE funeral takes place next Wednesday (March 21) of former merchant seaman, Leonard Fellows, who has died aged 82.

In itself, this is not news. However, Mr Fellows, who lived for the final few months of his long life at the Bellavista Nursing Home in Barry, has no known family – aside from a 92-year-old sister in Australia – and no known friends.

At the moment, according to Park Funeral Directors, which contacted The GEM, the only people attending the funeral will be his social worker and a representative of SSAFA (formerly Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families

Association).

A spokesperson for Park Funerals said: "Leonard came from a seafaring family and lost one of his brothers at sea many years ago.

"Perhaps an appeal might attract the interest and attendance of the RNLI, and other marine organisations, and even allow Leonard's ashes to be scattered at sea, with assistance from one of these organisations?" suggested the spokesperson.

Mr Fellows' funeral takes place on Wednesday, March 21 at 3pm at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, CF62 9PX.

The GEM understands that any individual or representatives from maritime, Forces', or other organisations, will be welcome to attend.

Fonmon Apiary in March

THE apiary has suffered the loss of three colonies over the winter months; it is not at all unusual to experience losses.

All colonies have ample stores and were treated to reduce the numbers of the varroa mite population.

Low temperatures are not usually a problem for a colony in winter because the bees can keep the internal temperature under their control at all times. However, this control is dependent on there being sufficient healthy bees to form their winter cluster.

What factors could have kicked in to cause the demise of a colony? Well the varroa mite is certainly a prime candidate with its ability to infect a bee with a variety of viruses, for one.

Another would be lack of stores, i.e food – but in this case that is not an issue.

Nosema is another possibility and this is an internal infection of a bee's mid-gut; it reproduces in the cells that form the lining of the gut and this reproduction process requires a food source. When a bee consumes honey the Nosema extracts a share of this intake and this leads to the bee constantly being undernourished.

So the undernourished bee is not best fitted to assist in the temperature control of a hive.

Could the onset of the sub-zero temperatures that we have experienced just lately be another candidate? It certainly bears thinking about. With sick bees leading to lack of temperature control the Nosema is in its element – the Nosema thrives in low temperatures. The cold weather then kicked in and the sub-zero conditions will certainly have to be

considered as the final nail in the coffin.

Throughout the winter months I have had trays underneath the floors of the hives, floors that are of a mesh construction that allows a variety of debris to fall through; as long as debris is visible in the trays it conveys information as to what is happening inside the hive.

The three colonies that have died out showed no floor debris in their trays since February, a sure sign that all was not well. When other colonies had bees venturing out, nothing stirred from the three colonies in question.

I will eventually open up these three colonies and will examine some of the dead bees to see if I can identify the cause of death. All three hives are heavy, so a shortage of stores can be ruled out straightaway.

Nine colonies went into the winter and they are now reduced by three.

There were sufficient bees in each colony, plenty of stores and all had been treated to reduce the varroa mite numbers – and so should the beekeeper look to the methods currently in use regarding bee health?

Harold Williams

HandyVan can keep your home warmer and safer

Sean Overbury.



THE older people's charity Age Cymru is this month launching its HandyVan service for older people across the Vale.

The service, which is already operating in Cardiff and Penarth, will help older people keep their homes warmer and safer.

Delivered by the experienced handyman Sean Overbury, the service can install safety measures such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and grab rails to help improve quality of life, maintain independence and boost the confidence of older people in the area.

Improving energy efficiency in the home forms an important part

of the service and by installing draught excluders around doors and windows, cold alarms and radiator reflector panels around the home, older people can make substantial savings on their fuel bills.

The service can also undertake small repairs such as putting up curtain rails, replacing faulty light bulbs and tacking down loose carpets.

While some of the services may incur a small cost, most of the energy efficiency work is free of charge.

For more information call the charity on 029 2043 1555, email handyvan@agecymru.org.uk or visit www.agecymru.org.uk/handyvan.

CS



It pays to check out what your local industrial estate can offer

MEMBERS of the public can sometimes get into a little bit of a rut, when it comes to buying the household goods that they need.

The natural first thought is the high street, or something with the word 'retail' in it – a retail park, perhaps.

Of course, those who know better are well aware that many of the best suppliers are not so visible – and are to be found on industrial estates.

It's all a question of image, of course, and on any industrial estate there will be a number of manufacturing outlets and distribution outlets that do not sell to the retail customer.

For instance, the Bridgend Industrial Estate describes itself as "a large mixed use development comprising a number of large stand-alone industrial facilities, smaller estates, offices, development plots and a 'retail quarter'."

"In total the estate extends to an estimated 3 million sq ft of commercial accommodation on approximately 300 acres."

However, that only tells half the story, because so many of the businesses on the estate welcome retail customers, and more and more people are becoming aware of this.

It is worth remembering that one reason companies choose the Bridgend Industrial Estate is because of its location, close to the M4.

It means that it attracts retail customers from as far afield as Carmarthen in the west, and Newport in the east – customers who value the quality and price offered by companies who have set up there.

It is slightly ironic to think that clued-in customers will travel from a distance to get a good deal on items that they need, while local people may be unaware of what is on offer.

That is why it is well worth taking a good look at your local industrial estate.

You may well find exactly what you need today there – and probably what you will need tomorrow too!

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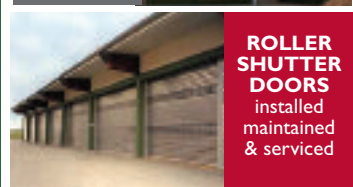
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Body found in search for missing Barry man

SOUTH Wales Police announced late on March 13 that a body has been found on the mountainside above Merthyr Tydfil.

A force spokesperson said: "Although it still needs to be officially identified, the family of Maldwyn Miles has been informed.

"Thank you for all your help with our appeals," concluded the spokesperson.

HENSOL CASTLE WINS AWARD

HENSOL Castle in the Vale has been named 'Romantic Venue of the Year' at the Welsh Wedding Awards 2018.

The four-star venue within the estate of the Vale Resort, beat off stiff competition from nine other Welsh venues at the award ceremony held at the Exchange Hotel in Cardiff.

Stephanie Metson, marketing manager at the Vale Resort, said: "Hensol Castle is a truly unique venue that newlyweds have

described as 'breathtaking', largely because it embraces everything that a fairytale wedding should be.

"Its gothic towers, majestic turrets and hand-painted vaulted ceilings set the tone for an unforgettable wedding.

"Winning the accolade of 'Romantic Venue of the Year' at the Welsh Wedding Awards is an outstanding achievement and a testament to the hard work of our staff across Hensol Castle and the Vale Resort."

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Out & About with The GEM

Join The Addams Family at Barry Memorial Hall

FEATURING a full cast of 35 talented, local, young actors, The Addams Family – a new musical – bursts to life in the Memo Arts Centre, Barry this April – it's going to be a special treat for all the family.

This kooky musical features an original story, and it's every father's nightmare.

Wednesday Addams has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet young man, Lucas, from a respectable family. She confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother.

Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's 'normal' boyfriend and his parents.

Taking on the leads of Gomez and Morticia Addams are Rhodri Lewis (18) and Tia Huggins (17), who say that *The Addams Family* is an alternative and different musical, but still very much a family

friendly show.

Kelsi Hughes (15) and Ioan Jones (17) play the parts of Wednesday and Lucas, and one of the youngest cast members Logan Burrows (11) (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* UK tour and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* UK tour) who plays Pugsley Addams.

Further cast members include Megan White (17) as Grandma, Ross Neale (15) as Lurch, Tyler Shier (17) as Uncle Fester, Lloyd Williams (15) as Mal Beineke and Hayley Matter (15) as Alice Beineke; plus a super-talented ensemble.

Directed by Christian Bullen, musically directed by Christopher Fossey, and brought to you by Superstars in the Making and the Memo Arts Centre, the team that produced *Fame!*, *Grease*, *Hairspray* and *West Side Story*, this is set to be another hit!

The Addams Family is at the Memo Arts Centre on Friday, April 20-21. Call the box office on 01446 738622 for further details and tickets, or book tickets online at www.memoartscentre.co.uk.

You Were Never Really Here is a 'slow-burning, yet brutally compelling piece of work'

WHETHER the film he's in is good or bad, Joaquin Phoenix is undoubtedly one of the most watchable actors working today.

His latest film, *You Were Never Really Here*, sees him team up with *We Need to Talk About Kevin* director Lynne Ramsay, who has also written the script, adapting Jonathan Ames' book.

Phoenix plays Joe, a traumatised army veteran and ex-FBI agent who specialises in tracking down underage kidnapped girls.

However, when a job to retrieve a senator's daughter named Nina (Ekaterina Samsonov) goes awry, Joe begins to lose sense of what is real and what is not real, and events soon spiral out of control in dark and disturbing ways...

You could quite comfortably imagine in a parallel world that *You Were Never Really Here* would be a blockbusting action movie, full of gunfights, car chases and action-packed fist fights.

Thankfully we don't live in this parallel world, so *You Were Never Really Here* becomes a woozy fever dream of a film, a work that places mood and atmospherics in the driving seat and makes for a slow-burning, but brutally compelling, effort.

Lynne Ramsay is a director who likes to dig

below the surface of her characters, and this film is no different, but rather than deal with bags of exposition she keeps things direct and to the point. For example, we know Joe is traumatised not because of copious flashbacks but through brief, powerful callbacks that tell you all you need to know about the character, a man who is as happy helping his elderly mother as he is brutally attacking those who have done wrong.

There is something of a vigilante element to Joe, and the New York setting consciously or unconsciously calls to mind that other Big Apple troubled vigilante Travis Bickle, but Joe is a man on the side of the angels and determined to do the right thing.

This is a film that isn't afraid to show violence but Ramsay's direction in economical, showing the ramifications but holding back on the actual act. There is a scene where Joe makes his way through a house full of underage girls shot wholly via security cameras which is so much more chilling and immediate than a cleverly-orchestrated action sequence, flashes of Joe wielding his weapon of choice (a hammer which, we learn through those economic flashes, is used for a reason) soundtracked to a lilting 1960s song.

Ramsay also shows small moments of tenderness to

counterpoint this, predominantly in the relationship with Joe and his mother, but also later on as his rescue of Nina gives way to the second half of the film, a bond developing between the two of them.

The soundtrack, by Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood (composer of choice for Paul Thomas Anderson) adds to the off-kilter feel of the film, full of discordant textures and sounds that are seemingly designed to keep you on edge and complement Ramsay's visuals perfectly.

Joaquin Phoenix's performance is a breathtaking one, full of internal rage and fire that, when it comes out, is terrifying to witness. You get the impression he has fallen into this particular line of work



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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purely as a means to exercise his violent tendencies rather than through any great moral compass, but there is good in the character

and Phoenix nails the complexities of him with an astounding turn.

Ekaterina Samsonov, as Nina, the young girl whose rescue starts events unspooling for the worse, is superb; detached and understandably brimming with emotion, the fleeting moments between her and Phoenix are excellent, and the young actor's performance, even briefly, is captivating.

This certainly won't be a film to suit all tastes; this is a work that puts the emphasis on minimalism, on small moments rather than grandstanding ones, but it's a film that makes you wish Ramsay was more prolific behind the camera.

In *Katcatcher*, *Morvern Callar* and *We Need to Talk About*

Kevin, she has already assembled a mighty impressive body of work and *You Were Never Really Here* is a fine addition to her CV, a film that will linger and resonate.

VERDICT: Hugely compelling, *You Were Never Really Here* is a harsh and uncompromising film that delivers mesmeric performances from the central turns of Joaquin Phoenix and Ekaterina Samsonov. Lynne Ramsay's direction is atmospheric and economical, and coupled with Jonny Greenwood's soundtrack, creates a beguiling assault on the senses that leaves its mark. *Essential viewing.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Drive* (2011), *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2011).

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, March 15 there will be a demonstration of 'Painting the Sea in Acrylics' by Welsh artist Vernon Jones (vernnonjones.co.uk).

Vernon's work has been described as 'hyper-realist' and is almost photographic in its effect. He has been exhibited in various countries throughout Europe particularly Macedonia, where he spends some of his time.

On Thursday, March 22 we will hold an assisted workshop led by CAS member Jac Harries, where members will be encouraged to produce spontaneous figures, which will involve some drawing without a pencil. This promises to be another interesting evening which will be both informative and entertaining.

We meet on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome. For details of the society's programme and activities collect a programme from the Old Hall, or see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com and www.facebook.com/cowbridgeartsociety.

Llantwit School PTA LLANTWIT Major School PTA are hosting their annual **Pamper and Prosecco Evening at the Comp on Friday, March 16 from 6.30pm – 9.30pm.**

Tickets are £5 and include a glass of Prosecco on entry and entry into a free prize draw for a pamper hamper. There will be five pamper providers, 12 gift stalls, teas, coffees, cakes and a bar.

The profit will go back into the school to benefit all pupils in

all areas of the curriculum. Tickets are available in advance from Sunkissed, The Hair Studio or the school front desk but will also be available on the door.

Country market COWBRIDGE Country Market re-opens for 2018 on Friday, March 16. There will be lots of new season marmalade, all our usual freshly baked goodies as well as Billy's delicious sourdough breads – don't forget to stock up for the Easter weekend!

The market is held on the first and third Fridays of each month in the Lesser Hall from 9.30am.

Messy Church COME to Messy Church this Sunday, March 18 in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop at 2.30pm to 4pm).

A warm welcome is extended to youngsters and toddlers (with their parents); activities for all the family, lots of crafty things to make, a Bible story, a bit of singing and plenty of refreshments.

Why not give it a go? Further information from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020, Canon Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

NEST energy advice IF you want free and impartial advice on cutting your energy bills, come and find out if you are eligible for a home improvement grant through the Welsh Government NEST programme.

You can chat to an adviser from the NEST Scheme at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, March 20; no appointment needed. Call 01446 732385 for further information; or to arrange a home visit call 08088 082244.

Care and Repair

IF you are you a home owner or private tenant living in the Vale; elderly or disabled and in need of advice and support on repairs in your home or home improvements, Care and Repair in the Vale can give advice on grants available and reputable companies to use.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session on Tuesday, March 20 at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry from 10am to 12pm. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Valeways guided walks

ON Wednesday, March 21 at 10am Coetir Casehill Woodlands walk; meet at Eglwys St Peter, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

The Coffee Shop Strollers of Barry meet at 10.30am on March 21 at the Bridge Cage car park, Cold Knap in Barry.

The Coffee Shop Strollers of Cowbridge meet the same day at 2.30pm at the Physic Garden fountain in Cowbridge.

National Trust volunteers

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan NT Association will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday, March 21 in The Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge.

Our speaker is Gwerfyl Gardner and her talk is entitled 'The Slate Barons of North Wales'. The spring newsletter should be available for distribution to members. New members are always welcome, enquiries to vofgant@gmail.com.

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Annual banquet raises funds for students

THE annual Atlantic Banquet takes place at St Donat's Castle on April 7 at 7pm this year.

An annual event run by students of Atlantic College, the purpose of the banquet is to raise funds to sponsor students to come to the school, who wouldn't otherwise be able.

Throughout the night, students will deliver a four-course meal, display their culture with various performances and have a silent auction with a raffle to raise money for student entries for the

upcoming years.

Your contributions could help a student gain access to education and reach their goal of being able to work towards peace and a sustainable future. Without the opportunities of Atlantic College and UWC, it is possible that they might never be able to leave their home country.

Please invite your friends, and join in a night of performances, auctions and sumptuous food. Book online at atlanticcollege.org. Places are limited, so admittance will be first come, first served.

Sites of interest, and tragedy, for walking group

IT was a bitterly cold but dry morning when eight Valeways walkers joined leader John at the 17th-Century Carne Arms ready for a seven-mile walk.

Setting off, they noticed the damaged mile post at the car park exit. The mile post shows that it is six miles to Pencoed station.

Builders were already carrying out the repair. They walked up the lane towards The Grange before going uphill, through a field of broad beans, in the direction of Nash Manor. Crossing grassy fields, the group quite quickly reached Wilton Farm.

Here they walked along the quiet lane for about half a mile before turning onto the Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail. This is a 100 km circular walk around the Vale (for more information see www.valeways.org.uk/p

age.php?page=31&lang=1).

This part of the trail passes close to the site of the aircraft crash on March 12, 1950, when a plane carrying Welsh rugby fans home from Ireland crashed as it approached Llandow airfield killing 80 passengers.

There is a memorial by the side of the road in Singstone.

The trail also crosses the site of the Singstone airfield and parts of the runways are still visible, and the walkers crossed these on the way to the green lane leading down into Llanblethian and the ford by the wool factory.

The sun was now out and shining brightly as the walkers took advantage of the seat here for a coffee stop.

Refreshed and rested, they set off again passing the wool factory workers cottages with the pretty gardens full of hellebores in full flower, to head over several stiles and up



Coffee by the wool factory.

Factory Brook to return eventually to the road which led back to Llsywnnery and the pub.

Many thanks to the staff at the Carne Arms for the use of the car park and for their hospitality.

John Treby
Valeways

YE GODS, IT'S ZEUS!

ZEUS is an energetic four-year-old Husky Cross.

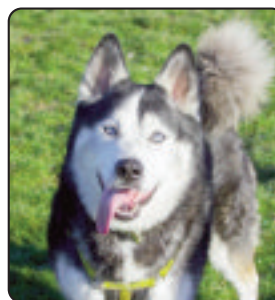
He enjoys playing with his toys and having plenty of off-lead exercise. Zeus will need to continue with his training to build up his social skills with other dogs.

He is not used to being left alone, so new owners would need to work on gradually building this up.

Zeus is looking for an active home where he will get of physical and mental stimulation, and training classes would help with this as he is eager to learn.

Zeus is house trained and travels well in the car. He can live with children 11 years old and above who are used to dogs.

Zeus will make a lovely addition to an active family home, but not one with cats or other small animals.



For more information on Zeus, please visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; telephone 01656 725219; or visit www.dogtrust.org.uk.

Dead badger survey continues

NFU Cymru is urging its members and the public to take part in the Welsh Government Badger Found Dead Survey, which continues to be in operation across Wales.

The call comes after the most recent published figures by Welsh Government show that 725 of badgers found dead were tested in Wales, in the period September 2014 to August 2017.

This survey is important so that an accurate picture of the disease in wildlife across Wales is built up.

In a joint statement, Wyn Evans, NFU Cymru Livestock Board Chairman and Gareth Richards NFU Cymru Milk Board Chairman said: "Surveillance is essential in any disease control programme and bovine TB is no different.

Bovine TB continues to cause heartache for farming families across Wales therefore we strongly encourage our members and the general public to participate in this survey to help build up an accurate picture of

the disease in Wales.

"It is important to build up a picture of where diseased wildlife are playing a part in the transmission of this disease and also crucially where wildlife are healthy and therefore not implicated in cattle herd breakdowns.

"The Wales Veterinary Science Centre in Aberystwyth has been commissioned by Welsh Government to test for TB in badgers found dead. Those who find an intact badger carcass are urged to participate in the survey by reporting the location on 08081 695110.

"Ideally, a six figure grid reference is required and there are apps that can be used to obtain this, for example, OS maps. Alternatively a road name or number can be phoned in, but it would also be useful to state on which side of the road it was and to note any significant landmarks nearby."

NFU Cymru continues to lobby government and key decision makers about the importance of eradicating this disease from Wales through the implementation of a comprehensive programme of measures in Wales. **FG**

EASTER IN CADOXTON

CADOXTON Youth Project and Communities First are inviting you to this year's Easter event at Victoria Park on March 30, Good Friday.

The event will run from 11am-2pm; there will be colouring and drawing competitions along with other activities for the kids, as well as a raffle draw, sporting activities and so on.

The organisers will be at the park for 10am to set up for the event before the start and if anyone wishes to help out, it'll be greatly appreciated.

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Barry Dambuster to be 'reunited' with fellow 617 Squadron members

A PORTRAIT of the only Welsh Dambuster, Gordon Yeo, will 'reunite' the front gunner with all 132 members of No. 671 Squadron – The Dambusters – in a poignant exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the most famous, and one of the most audacious, air raid of WW2 on May 16-17 this year.

Artist Dan Llywelyn Hall, known for painting portraits of HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, and WW1 veteran, Harry Patch, is now working on an official portrait of the last British surviving Dambuster Squadron Leader George 'Johnny' Johnson (96) last month in Bristol and has since been painting all the

squadron inspired by archival photos in a bid to 'reunite' the entire squadron.

The Welsh artist is offering the public a chance to invest in this historic exhibition and help three charities with proceeds and donations from the exhibition.

The exhibition – *Dambusters Reunited* – is due to launch in London in mid-May with an unveiling of Johnny's portrait and alongside Charles Foster's book launch of *The Complete Dambusters* with detailed research into each member of the squadron.

People may pre-order one of the limited-edition (75) hardback catalogues and prints that will benefit three charities: RAF Benevolent Fund; Group 617; and International Bomber Command Centre.

Gordon Yeo was front gunner in the Avro Lancaster AJ-A 'Apple' in the first wave of bombers of 617 Sqn to attack the Möhne Dam on the night of May 16-17, 1943, in what was called Operation Chastise.

They dropped their Barnes Wallis-designed bouncing bomb, or



The crew of AJ-A: (L-R) Sqn Ldr Melvin Young (pilot), Sgt David Horsfall (flight engineer), Flt Sgt Charles Roberts (navigator), Sgt Lawrence Nichols (wireless operator), Flg Off Vincent MacCausland (bomb aimer), Sgt Gordon Yeo (front gunner), Sgt Wilfred Ibbotson (rear gunner). The crew are buried in the General Cemetery of the Dutch town of Bergen. Image courtesy of www.dambustersblog.com.

RIGHT: Barry-born Sergeant Gordon Yeo, who died aged 20. Photo courtesy of the Humphries Family Collection.

more accurately, the 'Upkeep' mine, from low level and scored a direct hit.

Shortly afterwards, the first of the three dams gave way and vast quantities of water flooded the Ruhr Valley to make a severe dent in the German war effort.

The raid was declared to be a strategic success, but the cost in terms of human life was enormous.

After successfully crossing Germany en route for home, A-Apple was shot down by one of the last ack-ack batteries located on the coast of Holland. It

was one of the eight that failed to return, resulting in the loss of 56 lives.

Born in Barry in 1922, Gordon Yeo was the youngest member of Squadron Leader Henry Melvin 'Dinghy' Young's crew. He had joined the RAF in 1941 and wanted to be a pilot.

Having been initially posted to Elementary Flying School in Canada, he eventually qualified as a gunner.

After crewing up with David Horsfall, Lawrence Nichols and Wilfred Ibbotson at 1660 Conversion Unit at RAF Swinderby, he



flew with them on an operation to Berlin on 16 January 1943, with Pilot Officer V Duxbury as their pilot.

By the time the crew moved to 57 Squadron at Scampton in mid-March, Dinghy Young had become their pilot and Charles Roberts their navigator.

On March 25, they were posted across the base into the fledgling 617 Sqn and the young gunner would have met a few with much more experience than him. But he would also have found several more, like him, with very few operations under their belts.

Yeo wrote several letters to his parents during his time with 617 Sqn, and they give us some insight into how hard they trained, and what they did in their spare time.

Dinghy Young drove the crew into Lincoln on a day off from training to watch a parade which was part of the city's 'Wings for Victory' week.

This reminded the crew of their skipper's chequered history - "We had a good laugh at the blokes all dressed up in flying clothes and sitting in the dinghy. (Melvin Young) had a good laugh at them because he had detailed them."

Later, he told his parents about Young's determined efforts to ensure they were trained hard: "You say you want to know the name of our skipper, well here it is, Squadron Leader H M Young, he is not so bad lately, I expect that is because we are getting used to him, but he is the cause more or less of us not getting leave."



617 Squadron Dambusters Memorial, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, close to RAF Scampton. Photo by Ron Strutt.



Artist Dan Llywelyn Hall with George 'Johnny' Johnson. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD BREWIS.

The Lancaster's front gun turret was not used during most wartime operations, but on the Dams Raid it was manned as the modification for the special mine had necessitated the removal of the mid-upper turret.

Yeo would have used it to fire directly ahead of him at the Möhne's gun emplacements as Young kept the aircraft steady on its bombing run.

In the months after the raid, Gordon Yeo's mother must have written to Henry Young, Melvin Young's father, as his reply to her dated July 13, 1943 shows.

He ends his letter with the words: "With many thanks for your kind sympathy which I

feel too for all those who have suffered the same loss."

A 'crowdfunder' page has been commissioned to assist with the exhibition, although the page expired on March 11. Visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-last-dambuster-exhibition for more information and to contribute.

For more information on the artist Dan Llywelyn Hall, visit www.danllywelyn.com; for more information on author Charles Foster and his works, visit www.dambustersblog.com.

Footnote: Gordon Yeo's logbook was stolen in the early 2000s. No-one has been

charged with the theft, and the location of the logbook is unknown.

Readers may also be aware that Penarth Pavilion has the '617 Room' with artefacts and memorabilia relating to 617 The Dambusters (motto: *Après moi le déluge*).

Why? Because Wing Commander Guy Penrose Gibson, VC, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, had a very strong connection to the town: in November 1940, he married Penarth local Evelyn Moore.

The other surviving Dambuster is Canadian Fred Sutherland, who, like Gordon Yeo, was a front gunner.

He lives in his native Alberta.

A POSITIVE TURNOUT FROM PUPILS FOR WELSH BLOOD SERVICE

SIXTH form pupils at Porthcawl and Bryntirion Comprehensive schools are being praised by the Welsh Blood Service after leading the way in Wales with around 100 pupils rolling their sleeves up to donate blood within the last month.

They are two of the three schools from across Wales that have held blood donation sessions for pupils and staff this year, making an outstanding effort towards blood donation.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School held their very first blood donation session in February, where all 64 available slots were snatched up by pupils and staff who were eager to do their part to help save lives.

Sixth form pupils at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, many of whom are first-time donors, were equally keen to donate blood at a specially organised session held earlier this week – the school's third blood donation clinic since 2016.



Praising the students for their outstanding efforts, Nicholas Brain, headteacher of Bryntirion Comprehensive School, said: "I am so proud of all of our students and staff who have rolled up their sleeves and donated blood. Each donation can save up to three lives so our efforts mean that as a school we could potentially save hundreds of lives in Wales."

Year-12 student at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, Kieran Cutajar, said: "I was really anxious about donating blood for the first time but it's turned

out to be a surprisingly positive experience. The Welsh Blood Service staff were really supportive and helped put my mind at ease.

"The experience helped me understand how important blood donation is and how easy it can be to help save lives. I'll certainly be donating again and would encourage everybody else to do so too."

The Welsh Blood Service needs over 100,000 units of blood per year to supply hospitals across Wales, meaning they need around 450 units per day.

Jonathan Ellis, the Welsh Blood Service's Head of Donor Engagement, added: "We would like to thank the pupils and the members of staff who have selflessly contributed towards the 100,000 units needed in Wales this year. They have shown fantastic commitment and great community spirit."

"We hope that the pupils' actions will encourage more people living in the county borough to consider donating in the future."

"The blood collected is not just used for accidents and emergencies; it is also used for cancer and leukaemia patients who need regular transfusions, so it's crucial we maintain a steady supply to support patients in need across the country."

The Welsh Blood Service will be in the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, on Monday, March 19 and Monday, April 9, from 10am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.20pm for members of the public to donate blood.

Visit welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252 266.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgangem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

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Abandoned Villages and uncovering their history

WHAT do the names Tyneham, Imber, or Tide Mills mean to you?

Perhaps somewhere a little closer to here, such as Temperance Town or Y Graig?

Cosmeston and Kenfig must ring bells, surely?

The answer is that they are all abandoned communities and villages and in some, the bells have not rung for decades or centuries.

The reasons for their abandonment are varied. Imber (Salisbury Plain) and Tyneham (Dorset) were requisitioned during World War Two to permit Allied troops the 'experience' of FIBUA (Fighting In Built-Up Areas), and no, that does not refer to a ruck in The Ram in Tidworth on a Friday night.

For some villages, industry changed and people left. For others, the settlement was consumed by water when a valley was flooded to make a reservoir.

Residents of some hamlets and villages departed in an altogether different way. The Black Death is one such reason.

Retired psychologist Stephen Fisk has researched and written a

fascinating book – *Abandoned Villages* – on the subject, and has kindly offered a copy to a lucky GEM reader.

Stephen said: "I retired in 2003. Having worked as a clinical psychologist I left with no plans at all for the future, but reasonably confident that new interests and activities would soon begin to come along. One of my biggest interests since then has been the abandoned villages of Britain."

He said that an early inspiration was Richard Muir's book *The Lost Villages of Britain*.

"Before long I was exploring the sites of villages not far from my home in south Wales. Cosmeston, the only deserted medieval village that has been reconstructed; Kenfig, the castle and town built by the Anglo-Normans as part of their attempt to conquer this part of Wales, but almost completely covered by sand during huge storms in the 15th century.

"Over the next few years I enjoyed trips to all parts of Britain. In Sussex, for example, I went to Tide Mills and Lowfield Heath. Tide Mills got its name as it was close to a flour mill driven by tidal power.



Stephen Fisk's book *Abandoned Villages*. One copy is available to win in a GEM competition.

The mill closed in 1883, but the village survived until the early part of World War Two."

Stephen said that he began to think about publishing the results of his travels and research. "A book or a website were the options. I decided to develop a website, the Abandoned Communities website, and I am very glad I made that choice."

"A website makes it much easier for readers to get in touch, and I have many people to thank for telling me about abandoned villages I did not know about; people who lived in abandoned villages or their descendants who have given me information and

photographs of life in their village while it still existed; and even one or two people who have explained the meaning of local words or have offered to read or interpret old documents that I was having trouble with.

"Having said that, I am now very grateful to Amberley for giving me a chance to produce a book as well."

And so is The GEM. *Abandoned Villages* is a splendid book that chronicles the changing way people live in the United Kingdom, and the reasons – a variation on the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse comprising war, pestilence, famine, and industry – behind why

once-thriving villages ceased.

To win a copy of *Abandoned Villages*, answer this question:

What is the name of the village in North Wales abandoned in the late-1880s to make the reservoir Lake Vyrnwy?

Clue: visit Stephen's blog – www.abandonedcommunities.co.uk – to find the answer.

Entries must be sent by email to editorial@glamorgangem.co.uk with the subject heading **ABANDONED VILLAGES** or by post (on a postcard or the back of a sealed-down envelope) to The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL and received no later than noon on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

The winner will be the first entry drawn out of a hat after that date, and must visit the Gem's office for a photograph. The Editorial Team's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into, and no cash alternative is available.

Abandoned Villages is available from Amberley Books. Visit www.amberley-books.com, or telephone 01453 847800 for more information.

SE/AJ

MP meets Vale woman during trade mission to USA

WHILE Vale MP Alun Cairns was on a recent trade mission to America in his capacity as Secretary of State for Wales, he bumped into a familiar face.

He met Anna Wallace, who is from St Mary Church, and was Cowbridge educated. Anna used to work for Mr Cairns when he was an Assembly Member.

She is now the finance director to the Mayor of Philadelphia with a £7bn budget.



MP Alun Cairns with Anna Wallace on his recent trip to the USA.

Volunteering opportunity

EAST Vale Community Transport, who provide wheelchair friendly door-to-door transport for all in the eastern Vale, are currently looking for volunteer drivers. If you would like to volunteer in the local community, enjoy driving and want to make a difference, then contact EVCT on 02920 705138 or email enquiries@evct.org.uk.

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Holton Road, Barry - £16,000 p.a. + VAT



- An opportunity to lease a large double unit located on the busy thoroughfare of Broad Street in the popular west end of Barry.
- Close to all local amenities and Barry Island.
- Commercial unit briefly comprising: large main retail area, kitchen and W.C.

Broad Street, Barry - £11,000 p.a. + VAT

Please contact Angela Fulgoni-Williams, Head of Commercial for more information on 01446 709933 or 01446 700222

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Photography group hold annual competition



Before the storm.



Winner Richard Craze.

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society held their annual Malcolm Nugent Portfolio competition on February 22 at St Clare's School, Newton.

Each member could enter a set of four prints or four digital images into the competition, one from each of the following genres: abstract, landscape, Nature and people with 16 members entering.

Jenny Hibbert skillfully judged the competition, and not only awarded the points, but also provided an excellent critique on each of the 64 entries.

Congratulations to

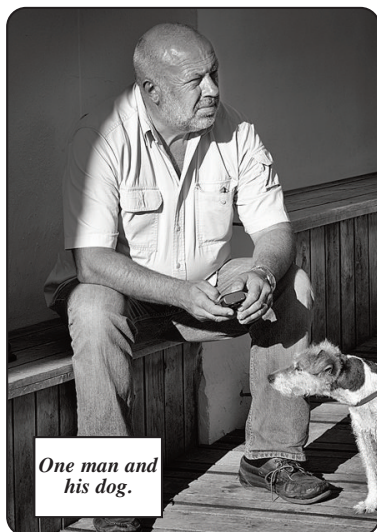
Richard Craze who was the overall winner with 4 excellent prints scoring 74 out of a possible 80.

Tied in second place with 72 points were Heather Roper and Geoff Baker, with William Baker next with 69 points.

There were some excellent entries again this year. Thank you to everyone who entered and to Jenny Hibbert for her excellent judging.

Our program is available at www.pyle-porthcawl-ps.co.uk. We welcome new members of all ages and skill levels, so if you have an interest in photography why not join us on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at St Clare's School, Newton.

Geoff Baker



One man and his dog.



Pond abstract.

The Cross Inn is CAMRA's pub of the year

A PUB in Cwmfelin has been named the CAMRA Pub of the Year in the Vale and Bridgend for the second time in the last three years, narrowly missing out on the overall award last year.

The Cross Inn has received the 2018 award from the local branch of The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

The aim of the group is to support well-run pubs as the centres of community life and it believes that their continued existence plays a critical social role in UK culture.

The quality of beer is the most important factor considered in judging the winners of the award but it also takes into consideration style, atmosphere, decoration, service and welcome, community focus and value for money.

CAMRA membership secretary Neil Goodman said: "The Cross Inn brews its own beer on site so you really couldn't get beer any

fresher or in better condition, it usually has a variety of four or five of its own regular real ales, and we particularly love going up for their Beer Festival or when there's a special release."

"Vale and Bridgend CAMRA members voted for The Cross Inn because they feel like it's a genuine pub, the staff are friendly, fast and efficient, and you're made to feel very welcome, not only by the staff but also the regulars.

"We don't look for cheap beer and food, we look for a good return for your hard-earned pennies and in the Cross Inn we found the ales are offered at a very reasonable price and in excellent condition."

This friendly multi-roomed pub with its own green-energy-run Cerdin Brewery on site is situated between Maesteg and Bridgend, with buses stopping at the front door and the railway station within walking distance. Excellent beer, a warm welcome, and good for the environment too!



Council celebrates success of past and present apprentices

THE success of past and present apprentices at Bridgend County Borough Council has been celebrated at a special event to mark National Apprenticeship Week 2018.

Thirty current apprentices and 17 former apprentices who have gone on to secure permanent jobs at the council, all came together to discuss their experiences.

The council – which is the county borough's biggest employer – currently employs 24 apprentices across a wide range of departments, including business administration, learning and development, civil and structural engineering, and IT, as well as six apprentices at Heronsbridge School.

All the apprentices are gaining experience, earning a wage and

working towards a nationally recognised qualification.

Among those kick-starting their careers is Loren Stephens, a learning and development apprentice, who said: "University wasn't for me, so I spent time considering my options and felt that an apprenticeship would be ideal. I love the fact that I can earn and learn, and pick up lots of valuable experience which will be beneficial for my future."

One of the role models for the council's current intake of apprentices is Cory Tyzack, who joined the local authority as an apprentice in the IT department and has since gained a full time job as well as a promotion.

Cory said: "Doing an apprenticeship has helped to get me into the career I want, and has allowed me to gain further qualifications and on-the-job experience. I would certainly

recommend an apprenticeship to anyone."

Cllr Huw David, Leader of BCBC, said: "Our apprenticeship programme has been in place since 2013, and it was great to meet all of our current apprentices, as well as those who have successfully completed apprenticeships and subsequently secured jobs with the council."

"We are committed to supporting young people by creating apprenticeship opportunities wherever possible and developing our managers of the future, and I would like to wish all of our current apprentices the best of luck with their careers."

To find out about information and advice about apprenticeships, call Careers Wales on 0800 100 900 or visit www.careerswales.com.

Celebrating apprenticeships as pathway to chosen careers



Ryan Lewis, former engineering apprentice; Huw Irranca-Davies AM, president of Airborne Systems; Ryan Morris, former engineering apprentice.

NATIONAL Apprenticeship Week 2018, this year held in March, brought together employers and apprentices, celebrating the success of apprenticeship schemes as an established alternative pathway to a great career.

Ogmore Assembly Member and Welsh Government Minister Huw Irranca-Davies, in

support of apprenticeships, said: "I have heard first-hand how these schemes can positively impact on individuals, businesses and our local economy. Providing opportunities for hands-on practical learning in the workplace, they often result in nationally recognised qualifications, along with the prospect of advancement with continued learning."

"We are lucky to have world-leading successful businesses in the constituency and

surrounding areas who have provided unique packages of support, qualifications and experience to apprentices young and old. Sony Pencoed, Airborne Systems in Llangeinor, and our local government authorities are just some examples of organisations benefiting from successful apprenticeship schemes which have resulted in secured long-term employment."

"The Welsh Labour Government is also committed to combating the shortage

of women and young girls taking up apprenticeships in science, technology, engineering and maths subjects.

With Government support, it is hoped that females and employers will feel inspired to consider apprenticeships in the STEM field enabling women to have the same career options as men."

Information on apprenticeships can be found at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway/ap-prenticeships>.

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Whoops-a-daisy!



"Hang on, lads; I've got a great idea."

WORK to replace Porthcawl's famed 'Tarmac Beach' came to a bit of a halt earlier this week, because...

words.

As contributor David Jones writes: "It's a Tarmac beach! How did they make it fall over?"

Well, a picture is worth a thousand Gravity probably played a part.

Samuel just pipped in music competition

THE district final of the Rotary Young Musician competition was held last Saturday at Islwyn High School in Blackwood.

Local flautist Samuel Finch from Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School had won through to the event by winning at Rotary in Porthcawl Club level, and then at the area heats, and was up against seven other area winners from the 68 clubs in District 1150, which covers a large area of south and west Wales.

Reprising his winning pieces, Poulenc's Sonata for Flute and Piano 1st Movement and Bach's Flute Sonata in E major 1st Movement, Samuel came so close to repeating his earlier successes but was beaten into second place by



Samuel Finch.
Photos by Nigel Kaszubowski.

harpist Eve Price, who had been sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Aberdare, Llantrisant and Rhondda. Samuel's achievements so far have helped him to hone his musical skills to a high level of musicianship and he should be congratulated on his performance at the competition. Rotary in Porthcawl would like to wish him luck in future competitions and would like to thank him for representing the club so outstandingly.

Ivor Williams

TEENAGER RELEASES HER DEBUT ALBUM

A LOCAL teenager is releasing her debut album on her 16th birthday.

Musician, singer and songwriter Layla John from Porthcawl is releasing her debut album 'OneFiveEight' on April 3.

Influenced by bands such as Blink 182, Sublime and No Doubt, she writes her own songs, sings, plays guitar and bass on all the tracks and has also recorded and mixed all the tracks herself on her home computer.

Her ska punk sound has already received attention from the local music scene.

Layla said: "My debut EP CD 'Caught Short' is currently on sale in Spillers Records in Cardiff and a song from my debut album 'S.M.N.E.' has also been played on Wolfman



Layla John.

Radio.

"I am playing my first ever live solo gig at the Ancient Briton on the April 3."

Layla's music is available to listen to, download, stream or buy on Spotify, Apple Music and Google Play.

An odd couple looking for a home



Can you offer Tucker and Kane a home?

KANE and TUCKER are canine chums looking for a home.

Kane is a 12-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier and Tucker is a three-year-old Jack Russell-cross-Chihuahua.

The two came into the centre as friends and we are looking to rehome them together as they have a close relationship.

Kane is still very active despite his age and

will easily keep up with Tucker. They love their food and will do anything for a treat.

This will help with Tucker's training.

They can live with children 11 years and over. If you would like more information on Kane and Tucker, call in to Dogs Trust Bridgend, CF31 4NG, or call 01656 725219 or visit website www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Bridgend's Jack picks up top apprentice award

JACK GERMAIN from Bridgend has been named 'Electrical Apprentice of the Year' in Wales by national not-for-profit training provider, JTL.

Jack's win, for which he beat off stiff competition from 81 final year apprentices in the region, was announced at a graduation ceremony held recently at the Vale Hotel in Hensol.

The graduation event brings together JTL's learners, plus their families and friends, to celebrate their completion of a four-year long building services engineering apprenticeship. The course graduates are all now qualified electricians or plumbers.

The winning electrical learner from each of JTL's seven regions will go forward to represent their region at JTL's National Awards in London in June, when the winner of the Apprentice of the Year title will be announced.

Each of the electrical finalists going to London has excelled both academically and practically throughout their apprenticeship.

Jack attended the Welsh awards with his family and his JTL training officer, Matthew Bailey. He is employed by Bridgend company, Centregreat Ltd.

"Jack was a really strong apprentice from the start," says Matthew.

"He was really focused from day one on making sure he got the experience he needed and was always thinking ahead, wanting to be prepared for the next stage of his learning."

"As a result, he finished his apprenticeship a year early – no small achievement and a reflection of his high work-rate and outstanding commitment."

Centregreat's core business is the supply, installation and maintenance of highway lighting and electrical systems for local authorities, highways agencies, civil engineering

companies and private clients. Jack is now working in the company's traffic signal and surveillance division. He's undertaking further training to allow him to carry out inspection and testing roles.

"It's a tremendous achievement for a learner to be chosen as the number one electrical apprentice in their region," said Jon Graham, chief executive at JTL.

"A four-year apprenticeship is a big commitment which involves a great deal of hard work but Jack has excelled at every stage and deserves enormous congratulations. I know our team in the region now have their fingers and toes firmly crossed for Jack's success in our national final!"

The award scheme – now in its third year in its current format – is run by industry and Government approved training supplier, JTL, the leading provider to the building services engineering sectors in England and Wales.

Final year apprentices were nominated for the regional awards by their employer or training officer, put forward on the basis of their outstanding overall performances.

Each finalist was assessed against the four key elements that make up the apprenticeship framework: their practical work on site, theoretical knowledge, key skills and industry test scores.

Roughly 31,000 young people (and almost one in two of all electricians) across England and Wales have completed apprenticeships with JTL.

The organisation is a not-for-profit training provider and reinvests its resources for the benefit of the industry's apprentices and their employers.

To find out more about JTL apprenticeship schemes, go to jtltraining.com.

LOCK'S COMMON CL33 Porthcawl BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

Bridgend County Borough Council has applied to the Welsh Ministers for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Lock's Common CL33, Porthcawl. The site is located to the south of the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club on common land between the public car park and the existing café at Rest Bay (postcode CF36 3HU).

The work forms part of the proposed new watersports centre development and will provide improved pedestrian access from the existing car park to the new centre which will be constructed on the site of the existing café. Full Planning Approval has been granted for the scheme - P/17/513/BCB (18/08/18) and P/17/1067/BCB (12/02/18)

Works will include:

- Removal of the existing paved path serving the café (approx. 27 linear metres on common land), regrading of the excavated area and laying of new turf.
- Construction of a new 3.0m wide resin bound surface footpath (approx. 27 linear metres on common land), illuminated with 3 lighting bollards (on common land) at approx. 10m spacings.
- Installation of temporary Heras fencing around the new pathway creation area (approx. 376m²), in order to prevent public access during construction.

Public access to the rest of the Common will remain unaffected.

A copy of the application form and map showing the proposed works can be inspected at the Display Desk, Main Reception, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, Monday Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm until the 19th day of April 2018 (excluding public holidays). A copy of the application may be obtained by writing to Regeneration Projects & Approaches, Communities Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council, Level 3, Civic Offices, Angel St. Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Any objections or representations should be sent in writing ON or BEFORE that date to the Planning Inspectorate Wales at Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ, or Wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk. Letters sent to the Planning Inspectorate cannot be treated as confidential. They will be copied to the applicant and possibly to other interested parties.

J. Thomas
Principal Landscape Architect,
Regeneration Projects & Approaches,
Communities Directorate,
Bridgend County Borough Council
13th March 2018



BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Representations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objections supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643675.

Yr wyf yn hysbysu bod y caisodau canlynol wedi cael eu gwneud. Gellir gwneud golwg ar ddogfenau'r caisodau yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol yn y Swyddfa Ffwd Dinas, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB neu ar y dudalen gwefaru ar wefan y Cyngor. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ar y caisodau hyn, ar sail sylweddol, deffnyddio'r ddiwrdd neu'r Cyngor ar y cyfnewidiad uchod erbyn y dyddiad a nodir dan bob categori o caisodau neu gyflwyno'r sylwadau ar-lein. Ni onfwr cyfnewidiadaeth yn dilyn derbyn sylwadau ar gaisodau. Bydd unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir ar gais i'r cyfnewidiad hysbysu ac mae'n bosibl fydd enwau gwrthwynebwyr/cathogwr ar gais ar y Rhestrwyd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Rheol Deffnyddiau'r Cymunedau'n troi'n ddiwrdd i seilwdu o'r cyfnewidiad gais swydd. Os ydych chi dymuno nodi bwriad i siarad yn y Pwyllgor (os na fydd y cais yn cael ei brosesu dan bwriadu'r ddiwrdd), nodwch hynny yn eich ymateb. I gael mwy o wybodaeth telwch 01656 643675.

<p>PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1969 LISTED BUILDING CONSENT P/18/01415 Installation of 3-tier railings and 2no. gates on the breakwater that</p>	<p>can be closed during periods of bad weather in the interests of public safety - Porthcawl Harbour Eastern Promenade Porthcawl by BCB Harbour Master RESPOND BY: 04/04/2018</p>
--	--

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cynnyddwr Cymunedau
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REES

Malcolm John

Passed away suddenly on 2nd March 2018 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, aged 74 years. Loving husband to Vivien, loving father, grandfather and great grandfather.
He will be sadly missed by his loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major, until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 21st March at 10.30am.

No flowers please, donations may be given for Cancer Research UK, c/o the funeral home.

ESCOTT

Julia Ann

Peacefully on Friday, 2nd March at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Julia will be sadly missed by her loving husband Dilwyn, her sons Michael and Mark and all her grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, 20th March, service and cremation 12 noon at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

LANG

Beatrice Olive

Peacefully on 2nd March at the University Hospital of Wales, Olive, dearly beloved wife of Bill. Much loved, one in a million mum of Tarina, Cheryl, Beverly and Christopher. Adored nan and great nan.

Resting at William Ham Funeral Home, Cardiff until her cremation on Monday, 26th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.

Whilst dearly loved and sadly missed.

O'DARE

Ronald Delwyn (Ron)

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on 2nd March, Ron, formerly of Glebeland Place, St Athan. Much loved dad of Mark, Craig and Shaun, father-in-law of Geraldine, Michelle and Mandy. Adored bumpy and grumpy to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting in the care of A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Tuesday, 27th March at 2pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, or, if desired, donations in lieu of flowers to Diabetes UK.

MORGAN

Ivor Joseph

Peacefully on 28th February at Llandough Hospital, Ivor Joseph, aged 92 years of Barry, retired monumental mason. Dearly loved husband of Iris, a loved father of Pip and Tim. Father-in-law of Gary and Sarah. Cherished grandfather of Sally, Kate, Robert and Owen. Great grandfather of Eva, Leo and Olive.

Ivor will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry. Funeral service at Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road, Barry on Thursday, 22nd March at 9.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 11am.

Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Dementia.

HOOK

Leonard (Len)

Peacefully at University Hospital of Wales on 8th March 2018, Len, aged 86 years (formally of Hook Signs). Beloved husband of Sylvia, much loved dad of Susan and Paul. An adored gramps to Emma, Mark, David, Becky and Katie, also great grandchildren Jakob and Ellis.

Len will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd March at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

In honour of Len's love of colour, please no black.

HOLLAND

Suzanne (née Connor)

Suddenly on 5th March 2018 after a short illness, Suzanne, aged 68 years. Beloved wife of Jeff, much loved mum of Bridie, Lou and son-in-law Dru. Cherished nan of Rochelle, Luke, Mason and Oscar.

Suzanne will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at All Saints Church, Barry on Tuesday, 27th March at 10.45am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

FEARN

Doreen May (née Sparks)

Peacefully passed away at Barry Hospital on Thursday, 8th March, Doreen, adored wife of the late Edward Fearn. Much loved mum of Christine, Rosemary, Edward and Elizabeth. Respected mother-in-law to Stephen, Iain, Lacey and Kevin. A beloved grandmother and great grandmother.

Doreen will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Crossway Methodist Church, Barry on Monday, 26th March at 12.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Doreen's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are welcome to leave your personal messages for the family. All donations to support British Heart Foundation.

Further enquiries from 01446 407962.

SIMPSON

Vera Joyce (née George)

Passed away peacefully on 4th March 2018 in Colwyn Bay, north Wales, aged 88 years. Beloved wife of the late Bill, daughter of the late Uriah and May George. Devoted sister to the late Jack and Billy George, step sister of the late Ilene and Jenkin Elward, half sister to Moria George.

Funeral service to take place in Colwyn Bay Crematorium on 23rd March.

All enquiries please to T. Conchar & Sons Funeral Home, telephone 01492 532206.

FELLOWS

Leonard

(of Barry, Vale of Glamorgan)

Leonard passed away peacefully at Bellavista Nursing Home on 27th February, aged 82 years. A dear brother to the late Edward, who was lost at sea and the late Richard. Leonard is survived by his beloved sister Betty all whom were part of a Merchant Navy family.

Leonard is resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, on Wednesday, 21st March at 3pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to RNLI.

LEE

Betty

Peacefully on 2 March 2018 at Milson House Nursing Home, Betty, formerly of Barry. Dearly loved aunt, she will be sadly missed by all her family.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Monday, 26 March at 1pm.

Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to CLAPA, the Cleft Lip and Palate Association, Greenman Tower, 332B Goswell Road, London, EC1V7LQ.

In Memory

HOPKINS

Audrey Patricia

17th March 2016

We have suffered since we lost you, life has never been the same.

In our heart your memory lingers, sweetly, tender, fond and true

There is not a day, dear mother, that we don't think of you.

We love you mum and nan.

Rest in Peace

Dawn, Gem, Caz & Chloe xxx

PIDDUCK

Alf

21 March 2017

With farewells left unspoken, you gently passed away.

Love Joan & family xxx

ROBERTS

Mathew Paul (Pastie)

14 March 2016

Adored son and dad, miss you so much, always in our thoughts and hearts.

Love mum & son Elliot xxx

HAWKINS

Peter

13 March 2017

A dear brother sadly missed, always in our hearts and our thoughts.

Love Patricia & Leslie xxx

Situations Vacant

Monmouthshire Beacon GENERAL MANAGER VACANCY

We have a vacancy for a General Manager at our Monmouthshire Beacon series of newspaper.

Based in Monmouth the successful applicant will need to demonstrate a proven sales record, have an ability to lead and motivate the sales and editorial teams whilst exceeding previous results for all revenue streams including newspaper advertising, online advertising, circulation sales plus other supporting areas.

This is a very challenging role and requires someone with a 'can do' mentality, who isn't afraid of hard work, who can see opportunities and strive to achieve them.

The local newspaper industry is in a period of enormous change; the successful candidate will therefore need to understand these changes and its impact and potential in equal amounts.

If you are dynamic, results-driven, enthusiastic, a team player, motivated, analytical, not afraid of tough decisions, with the ability to care for the team and inspire them to share your goals, with, of course, 100 per cent belief in local newspapers, then this role might be for you.

Whilst a sales background is very much desirable a non-sales background would be considered.

If you feel this is you, and you can answer 'that's me!' to these vital skill requirements please apply in the first instance with covering letter and CV to:

SIMON PARSONSON
Managing Director, Tindle Wales
Via email simon.parsonson@tindlenews.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 5pm, Friday, 23rd March 2018.



Topstak

SALES OFFICE PERSON REQUIRED

To help with growing sales we are looking for an enthusiastic person to join our busy sales team.

The position will involve assisting with customers on the phone and processing online sales orders for Topstak and sister company Rodstation.

Experience would be beneficial in Sage accounting, but training will be given. Position is Tuesday to Saturday. Salary & benefits based on experience.

Please send CV to Adam Pedersen, Topstak, Unit 42, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge CF71 7PF

Email: adam.pedersen@topstak.co.uk

Office/Administration Assistant - Barry

An office assistant is required to assist and support the Company Director in a family-run water treatment and commissioning business on a full-time basis.

Duties to include organising and filing project paperwork, answering telephone and client queries, maintaining files and to run the office unsupervised on occasions.

Salary negotiable depending on experience.

Email CV to: fccaccounts60@yahoo.co.uk

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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **PREMISES LICENCE** to permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:

Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

NAME OF APPLICANT: John Bernard Colston
NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES: Nantylfyllon RFC, Blossie Street, Maesteg, CF34 0HP

STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: Provision of regulated entertainment including:

Indoor Sporting Events, 08:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs 7 days per week,
Boxing or Wrestling Entertainment 08:00 to 23:00 hrs 7 days per week,

Live Music, Sunday to Thursday 12:00 hrs to 23:30 hrs, Friday and Saturday 12:00 hrs to 00:30 hrs

Recorded Music Sunday to Thursday 08:00 hrs to 23:30 hrs, Friday and Saturday 08:00 hrs to 01:00 hrs,

Performances of Dance Sunday to Thursday 08:00 hrs to 22:00 hrs, Friday and Saturday 8:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs, 08:00 to 23:00.

Provision of Late Night Refreshment and the Supply of Alcohol for consumption on and off the premises.

10:00 hrs to 01:00 hrs 7 days per week.

DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely April 5th, 2018, for 28 consecutive days.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment and appropriate days and times

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Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:

Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

NAME OF APPLICANT: Lee Graham
NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES: Kenfig Hill and Pyle British Legion, Brynllas Terrace, Pyle, CF33 3AG.

STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: (1) To sell alcohol beverages to persons over 18, whilst following the licensing act 2003. Attend and follow pub watch meetings. Hire a function room for parties and events. Play recorded and live music (indoors only). Opening times of the premises are Sunday-Friday 10.00am-00.30; Saturday 10.00am-01.30. Sunday preceding Bank Holidays 10.00-01.00. Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day 10.00-01.30.

DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: 04/03/18. This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely March 5, 2018, for 28 consecutive days.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment and appropriate days and times

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Rhys Balmont hat-trick as Llantwit beat Ynysowen

L L A N T W I T MAJOR RFC ran in five tries as they gained another bonus point in an emphatic win at home in this league fixture against Ynysowen, who prior to the game were placed fourth in the league.

The try count was worth further praise due to the ground conditions, where the recent snow and heavy rain made the ground considerably heavy and produced yet another game with a mud caked ball.

As the game kicked off with Llantwit facing the School End some spectators had not made it out of the clubhouse before the home side had racked up seven points.

The first try came from a lovely set of passing in the three-quarters after the forwards had put them in a good field position. The backs didn't need to be asked twice as they quickly spread the ball, putting full back Bradley Morgan over for an unconverted try.

Ynysowen who, unfortunately, requested uncontested scrums prior to kick off, are a pretty resilient team and quickly fought back and despite being only able to field the bare 15 players they began to run the ball back at the home side, forcing Llantwit back towards the clubhouse on several attempts at field position.

This is a maturing Llantwit side and they comfortably soaked up the pressure before looking to push Ynysowen into the corners, and one such position gained a penalty for Howley to quickly

boot over and extend their lead.

It wasn't long before Llantwit were back on the scoresheet; after a lengthy period of possession in the Ynysowen 22, a beautiful set piece from a scrum saw Steff Godwin at nine whisk the ball back to Howley, who set off on a lovely run with centre Josh Austin and wing Joel Thomas running great angles on dummy runs.

With Ynysowen bamboozled, Howley threw a lovely weighted pass out wide to Rhys Balmont, who had come off his other line and was lurking deep to collect, and he scampered over for an unconverted try. The score at half-time was 8-0.

The second half started with a reversal in fortune as Ynysowen were the first on the scoresheet with a well-taken converted try after a series of forward drives saw a tight forward barge over.

Llantwit, though, after some stern talking to by skipper Geraint David, soon got back on track and constantly pressured their opponents with strong forwards runs, coupled with spreading the ball whenever possible in order to tire an already-tiring Ynysowen pack.

The tactic soon paid off as after a lengthy period of Llantwit possession, and some quick rucking by the pack, the away side defence was in tatters.

Howley, spotting a gap, broke the line and then with some classy footwork chipped the covering full-back and, on recovering, dived in between the posts.

Howley followed up with his own conversion

to suck the life out of the visitors and put any revival firmly to bed.

The rest of the half then became a comfortable workout for Llantwit as they began using their bench and increased the tempo on their opponents, who had no replacements.

It was, therefore, not long before the home side were once again on the scoresheet with Balmont getting his second try after some great interchanging between forwards and backs put the speedster away. The try was converted by Howley.

The final say went to Balmont as he capped another fine performance by notching his third try and taking his tally for the season to 13 and, naturally, also claiming the man-of-the-match award.

Further mention must go to flanker Donovan Stoppel who put in a normal workman-like performance in sadly his last game for the club as he heads home to South Africa.

Donovan has been a stalwart in the team and the club with his big personality and will be sadly missed - the club would like to wish him all the best in the future.

With the final weekend of the Six Nations this Saturday, there is no game until March 24 when the Llantwilians travel to Tonypre.

The clubhouse will be open for all the Super Saturday internationals with the two bars and function room showing the games, and afterwards local band The Shameless will be taking festivities well into the night.

AH

Wales takes UK lead in proton beam therapy

WALES has shown 'outstanding' vision in helping to develop innovative proton beam therapy services for cancer patients.

Speaking at the BioWales biotech conference recently, Professor Karol Sikora, chief medical director of Proton Partners International, said that the commitment to put Wales on the world life sciences map had led to the establishment of the UK's first high energy proton beam therapy centre at Newport.

Proton Partners International Ltd opened its Rutherford Cancer Centre in Newport earlier this year. The centre brings the most advanced treatments in cancer care to south Wales and will start treating the UK's first patients with high energy proton beam therapy by early April.

Professor Sikora said: "With cancer on the rise, there is a growing need for patients to be offered a holistic and sophisticated cancer service. Around 10 per cent of all cancer patients having curative radiotherapy could benefit from proton therapy, as it has

significantly lower side effects compared to traditional treatment.

"The Rutherford Cancer Centre in Wales, and the further three centres under construction in the UK, will transform the lives of many cancer patients with its very precise form of cancer treatment, and will mean that patients who need proton beam therapy will not have to travel abroad in future to receive it."

The Rutherford Cancer Centres will offer all-encompassing cancer services, including high energy proton beam therapy, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, imaging and wellbeing services.

Treatment at the Rutherford Cancer Centre south Wales will be available to medically-insured private patients, self-paying patients and referrals by NHS Wales.

The BioWales conference is the leading event for the life sciences sector in Wales, bringing together industry experts, life science investors, healthcare professionals and the innovation ecosystem, with the aim of improving health and wellbeing in Wales.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2018/00136/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Conversion of existing house in to 3 apartments. Extensions to property to provide a further 6 apartments
Location/Lleoliad: Ashdene, 10, Bridgeman Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2018/00240/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Phase 2 of the development consisting of 306 new homes, new public open space, landscaping and highways infrastructure
Location/Lleoliad: Land at North West Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting the Church of St. Brynach, Llanfrynach, Grade II* and the Cross Base in churchyard of the Church of St. Brynach, Llanfrynach, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/00955/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: AMENDED APPLICATION FORM RECEIVED. Proposed alteration to existing G/F retail unit and change of use to D2 (Gym), part demolition of existing 1st floor side and 3rd floor extension to form 12 residential units, on site basement parking, cycle and refuse storage and 1st floor amenity areas
Location/Lleoliad: Former RS Garage, Windsor Road, Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2018/00240/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Phase 2 of the development consisting of 306 new homes, new public open space, landscaping and highways infrastructure
Location/Lleoliad: Land at North West Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 15 March, 2018

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



RED TAPE 'INCREASING PRESSURE' SAYS AM

ACTION must be taken to address difficulties recruiting GPs in Cardiff, the Vale and RCT, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has said.

The British Medical Association has voiced concerns over 'unacceptable bureaucracy' in the recruitment process - with two separate medical performers' lists for England and Wales.

They have claimed this is detrimental to English doctors who want to work in Wales, with many having to wait several months for their applications to be processed.

There have recently been notable pressures on GP provision in south Wales, with the partners at Fairwater Health Centre taking the "unusual step" of writing to patients to warn of the pressures 8,000 new patients in the area will have on services.

Pointing out that several constituents had contacted him to express concerns, Mr Davies said it

was vital action was taken to ensure local patients did not lose out.

Mr Davies said: "There are considerable pressures on local GP services in Cardiff, the Vale and RCT - and it is vital these are addressed."

"It is therefore concerning that the BMA have highlighted problems with the recruitment system in Wales, when we need to do all we can to attract more GPs to the area."

"We should be making it easier for English doctors to come to Wales - and the fact it can take months for applications to be processed is very worrying."

"The issues in Fairwater have been well documented and many constituents got in touch about it. We simply can't afford to let opportunities pass us by."

"I'm therefore calling on the Welsh Government to take action to ensure this problem is addressed so we can tackle the problems of GP shortages in south Wales."

WALES - *The Six Nations so far...*

ALL PICTURES
BY HUW EVANS
AGENCY.



IT'S been a mixed Six Nations for Wales thus far.

Home wins over Scotland and, last Sunday, Italy have been countered by away defeats to England and Ireland, games that Wales could arguably perhaps have won under different circumstances.

However, a win over France on Saturday (5pm kick-off) in the final game of the tournament could see Warren Gatland's men seal second place in the table, arguably better than many predicted, provided Ireland beat England in the second game of the day, which kicks off at 2.45pm, where Joe Schmidt's team will be aiming to win the Grand Slam.

With Italy hosting Scotland at 12.30pm, it promises to be a nerve-shredding final day!

PORTHCAWL RUNNERS SHOWING THEIR CLASS

PORTHCAWL Runners have once again been out in force in recent weeks with some outstanding performances and results across the board.

The club's athletes are now mixing it with the very best in the region on a regular basis and a special mention for Alun Williams, who posted a time of 1:25:50 to bag a top 65 finish from over 1,700 competitors at the Llanelli Half Marathon.

Teammate Mark Bowen was also home in under 1 hour 30 mins while there were excellent performances from Joseph Mainwaring, Dennie Mainwaring, Gareth Mole, Louise Mordue and Alistair Thomson.



Entrants in the recent Llanelli Half Marathon.

Deb Goule is always a contender for the podium places and it was no different at the 114th Wales Cross Country Championships at Singleton Park in Swansea where she brought home a bronze medal in the Master

Women 45 category.

Meanwhile, only the Beast from the East could stop the Runners' charge towards promotion to the top flight of the West Glamorgan Cross Country League.

Both the men's and women's teams were well placed to push for the top two heading into the last of the six races at Aberavon Beach, but the inclement weather conditions meant it was cancelled.

And, as it will not be rescheduled, the tables heading into the last race stand, meaning both end the season third in their respective Division Two standings.

The success of the men, led by skipper Will Edwards, was notable though as they finished as the highest ranked Bridgend club in the area - which bodes well ahead of the new Bridgend County Running League season this summer.

There was individual

success too with Deb Goule third female overall and first in her F45 age category.

The frustrating weather also forced the postponement of the St David's Day 10K in Cardiff and the Newport Half, but the club will be well represented when those races are rearranged with many also competing in the Cardiff Bay 10k on March 25.

Parkrun is also a regular attraction for the Runners with personal bests flying in from everywhere on a weekly basis.

Congratulations, in particular, to Mark James and Dave Bennett who recently achieved their 50 and 100 parkrun milestones respectively. Last Saturday's club parkrun also featured the latest batch of graduates from the Couch to 5k programme, which was run by Owen Dobson in conjunction with South Wales Police.

CARL FIELD



Swimmer Harriet is selected for Commonwealth Games team

HARRIET JONES of Bonvilston has been selected to compete for Wales in the upcoming Commonwealth Games taking place in Brisbane, Australia.

Harriet will be competing in three Butterfly events - the 50m, 100m and 200m. Harriet, aged 20, started swimming for Cardiff Swimming Club when she was 12 and is now a member of the Wales senior elite team.

Already this year Harriet has achieved outstanding success. In January at the TYR Pro Swim Series in Austin Texas, Harriet competed in the 50m butterfly, breaking a 10-year-old Welsh record in a time of 26.63 seconds.

Then, in March, in spite of the 'Beast from the East', Harriet braved the weather to travel to



Edinburgh to compete in the British Championships.

The journey was well rewarded with Harriet becoming British Champion in both the 50m and 100m butterfly, completing the 100m race in a personal best of 58.85 seconds - Harriet can be seen pictured above after her 100m butterfly win.

Bonvilston wishes Harriet every success when she competes in Melbourne.

The 50m and 100m races take place on Thursday, April 5 and Friday April 6, followed by the 200m Fly on Monday, April 9. PF



Junior rugby festival to be held in Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE junior rugby festival will be held this year on March 24/25.

It started last year and proved so successful it is returning and has become the largest junior rugby festival in Wales.

Over 1,000 children aged seven-15 will be taking part from clubs all over Wales and it will be held at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, who have kindly loaned their grounds to the event.

There will be games to watch but also a chance to practice skills with the Cardiff Blues plus fantastic catering and activities for the kids. You might even spot some rugby legends walking around. All in all, it will be a great family weekend.

For more information contact event organiser Andrew Lord - amlord@btinternet.com or Emma Williams - emmasomerville@hotmail.co.uk.

EW

Tondu RFC blow away Resolven with emphatic win



Matthew Morgan charges down the line. ALL PICTURES BY GARETH ANTHONY.



Nathan Strong lives up to his name as he holds off a Resolven defender.

RESOLVEN had plenty of possession in this Division 1 West Central encounter but it was Tondu who seemed to score every time they went on the attack.

Their first try after five minutes came from a sensational break from full back Aled Jones resulting in the hard-working Matthew Morgan crashing over; Josh Tatchell added the conversion.

Owen Evans then slotted a penalty for the visitors only for Matthew Murphy to add a second try for the home side.

Tondu were already treating their supporters to a master class in running rugby and when winger Aled Jones sailed over just before the break, the writing was already on the wall for the west Wales side.

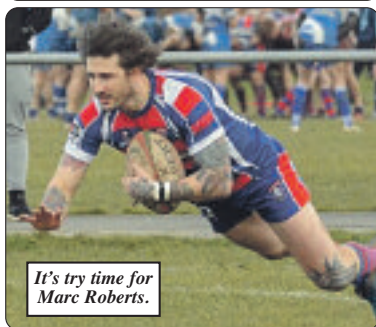
The second half began with the bonus point try when hooker Jake Lewis smashed his way over from a rolling maul, and Tatchell was on target with the conversion.

A consolation try for hooker Nicky Reed for the visitors didn't really dampen Tondu's spirit, and when replacement hooker Nick Davies took advantage of a poor throw in from his opposite number to score with his first touch of the game, everyone knew it was going to be Tondu's day.

Almost straight from



Aled Jones scores.



It's try time for Marc Roberts.

the kick-off the home side were at it again, this time a superb run from scrum half Gareth Lindburn began the move that saw flanker Matthew Morgan set up Marc Roberts for a try.

The final try came through flanker Matthew Morgan, believing he was the outside half when he kicked behind the Resolven defence for winger Aled Jones to bag

his second try, the final score 48-8.

On this form Tondu will be a match for any side but there is now another week off for the final Saturday of the Six Nations before back-to-back games against Bonymaen, the first of which is away on Saturday, March 24 with the home fixture a week later.

MIKE SULLY

Sports under-12s deliver fine victory

AN early kick off on Mothering Sunday for Bridgend Sports' under-12s provided a little serenity after the Beast from the East left its mark the previous week.

The weather has certainly disrupted the fixture list throughout the first months of 2018.

An opportunity for this fixture with Tondu under-12s was therefore welcomed and the young players put on a treat with some great rugby for all the dedicated mothers who turn up each week.

Both sides wanted to play an attractive brand of rugby which was evident throughout the 50 minute game. It was clear that they were also motivated by the challenge of playing a local rival.

The home side gained the upper hand, early on, due to their success in the tackle area where Jackal Harri Williams was quick to pounce and rob the opposition of ball.

When the openside wins the ball, a sharp pair of half backs is always useful and the Sports duo of Will Ellis and Cian John didn't disappoint as they used the quick ruck ball to good effect, opting to vary their attack with forwards Chloe Gant, Mason Balmer, Megan Lewis and Theo Clarke on hand to break the gain line and then from the ruck, the ball was moved wide.

The Tondu defence was resolute and forced some early errors to mount attacks from set pieces. They could not, however, counter the Sports' superiority on the ground.

A fine steel by Iestyn John retrieved possession for Cian John to counter attack. Some delightful interplay with Dylan Morgan saw play taken up from the halfway line.

John then used his pace to glide through the cover defence to put the Sports 5-0 up.

The home team were now brimming with confidence and were soon back camping on the Tondu line. Theo Clarke, Tyler Burton and Chloe Gant tried some shortrange pick and go attacks to force a scrum five.

From the scrum, the

ball was moved through centres Thomas Coles and Dylan Morgan. Harri Williams was on hand as play broke down, he offloaded to Chloe Gant to force her way over to score a second try, right on half-time, for the Sports to lead 10-0.

Early in the second half Tondu fought back with several attacks from their own half but Sports wing Iestyn John was frequently on hand to call a halt to any threat out wide.

He was also quick on his feet to then secure possession for his side to attack across field, his fellow wing Callum Jones then cut back inside before being hauled down just outside the Tondu 22.

The Sports were quick in support to win the ruck and scrum half Will Ellis saw an opportunity to snipe and beat the covering attack to score an excellent try to extend the lead to 15-0.

Tondu kicked off and secured a scrum but lost possession again at the ruck. The Sports then looked to have broken downfield with good runs from Dylan Parry and Mason Blamer through the middle of the field.

Tondu, however, began to master the rip in the tackle to secure possession to counter attack. This eventually led to a Tondu penalty which they opted to kick to the corner.

From the lineup they found a way to put Nathan Lewis in space out wide and the winger made no mistake to score. Lewis Chalmers added the conversion.

The Sports knew they had to respond and they did not fail as the combination of Harri Williams, Theo Clarke and Chloe Gant kept breaking the line, while Dylan Morgan and Callum Jones continued to combine well.

Chloe Gant added a second score from an attack; again quick ruck ball saw her in space 15 metres out. She saw the line and put in a determined run to score near the posts.

Callum Jones kicked the conversion to round off an excellent game of rugby with Bridgend Sports winning 22 points to 7.

SP

On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

TWO of the four pony races staged at last Saturday's Beaufort Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases were won by a rider from the Vale.

Edward Vaughan, son of Aberthyn National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan and Abbi Vaughan, was successful on Little Replacement and Peateach; Jessica Llewellyn won the 148cm event on Class Act Annie.

There was further success for the Vale when BillyGwyn Too, ridden by Tommie O'Brien, landed the young horse maiden race.

A 3-1 chance, BillyGwyn Too, trained by Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor, and Abbi Vaughan's Shanan du Berlias, the odds-on favourite, jumped the last almost together and despite losing his irons after a last fence blunder, BillyGwyn's rider managed to get up on the line.

Bradley Gibbs chalked up his seventh win of the season when winning the restricted open race on Claire Sherriff's eight-year-old bay mare Nuevo Molino.

Bridgend's Connor Brace, who is making a bold bid for the novice riders' championship, finished third on Bob The Butcher in the intermediate race and second on Mitbeall Forluc in the novice riders' race.

LORD BRYAN'S HEREFORD WIN

Lord Bryan, jointly owned by the Vale's Gwyn Brace and his daughter Jayne, and trained by Peter Bowen in Pembrokeshire, was a 10 lengths winner of the novices' limited

handicap chase at Hereford Racecourse last Saturday.

The eight-year-old, a 4-1 chance, was ridden by the trainer's son Sean Bowen who also won on all his other three rides.

He won the opening handicap hurdle on 4-1 chance Colt Lighting for Tom Lacey, the mares' handicap on Dai Rees' Misty Mai (7-1), and the handicap chase on Dr Newland's Beau Bay.

BRECON RACES

There are 111 entries for the re-arranged Brecon Hunt Point-To-Point at Llanfrynach on Saturday (first race 1pm).

A number of horses from the Vale have been entered and an exciting day's racing is promised.

EVAN'S SUFFOLK WINNER
Llanharan's Evan David won the open maiden race at the Suffolk at Hampton Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Andrew Pennock's Chosen Rose last Sunday.

BYRON'S WINNER

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft won the restricted open race at Hackwood Park on the Keiron Price-trained League Of His Own last Sunday.

The lightly raced League Of His Own, a former inmate of Tim Vaughan's Aberthyn yard, was an 8-1 chance.

*You can e-mail your racing news, views and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone 02920736438.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC under-8s hosted Taibach RFC with the Athletic winning 18 tries to 7.

Try scorers were Ashton Davies (5), Rudi Quinn (4), Mason Brown (3), Ethan Davies (3), Max Edwards, Regan Henly and Jude Lewis.

Stand out performers in defence were Mason Brown with 17 tags and Ashton Davies with nine.

After a heavy 53-5 defeat earlier in the season, the Athletic under-13s travelled up to Treorchy with hope more than expectation.

Treorchy are probably the best team they have played this season. A Herculean

effort saw the Athletic boys turn this around for a 36-33 win.

A fantastic team effort with every boy playing his part. Tries were scored by Shea Duggan, Jacob Hughes, Ryan Jones, Luca Barclay and two for Sam Barraclough.

Jacob Hughes converted three of the tries. Well done boys.

The under-14s welcomed a very strong Caerleon side to Newbridge Fields, with the last meeting between the teams ending in a close encounter.

With only 18 players available the boys were asked to rise to the challenge and they didn't disappoint, running out 29-10 victors.

From the start the

Athletic wanted to play a high-tempo game and scored from their first possession with forwards and backs combining in unity.

It set the pace for the rest of the game with the Ath dominating the breakdown, allowing their backs to run in some great tries.

Try scorers were Ethan Scourfield (3), Ieuan Bissmire and Callum Duckett, with Evan Beach adding two conversions.

Captain Charlie Ashpole led by example with strong performances from Evan Beach and Harper Chamberlain.

Caerleon never gave up without a fight and ran in a couple of well-worked tries themselves.

AB

Day bags second title of season

BRIDGEND'S Ryan Day won his second ranking title this season by beating China's Cao Yupeng 4-0 in the final of the Gibraltar Open.

The victory follows his first-ever ranking title at the Riga Masters last June. After 19 years as a professional, Day, aged 37 and from Pontycymer, now has his sights set on further success.

"It is a tremendous feeling, and hopefully this is going to give me even more confidence," he said.

He is only now just outside the world top

16 and wants to reach the elite in time for the World Championship in Sheffield next month to avoid having to qualify for the Crucible.

Day is keen to impress at the Players' Championship in Llandudno which starts next Monday.

"The season I have had following the victory I had in Riga shows I have taken a lot of confidence from the win," Day told the BBC.

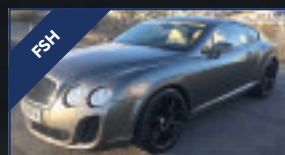
"We are getting to the nitty-gritty of the season in terms of Crucible qualifying. I need to put a good show in Llandudno so I

don't have to go through the pressure of the World Championship qualifying system."

For the win in Gibraltar, which earned him £25,000, Day beat Xu Si 4-2, Oliver Brown 4-1, Martin O'Donnell 4-1, Fang Zhiqiang 4-1, Joe Perry 4-1, Scott Donaldson 4-3 and finally Cao Yupeng 4-0.

Day made breaks in the final of 58, 72 and 100, restricting Yupeng to just 24 points over the four frames. He had also made three century breaks in earlier rounds.

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Porthcawl one match away from trip to Principality Stadium after hard-fought win



ABOVE LEFT: Jordan Fox breaks through the opposition defence, and ABOVE RIGHT: Delight as Josh White forces his way over to give Porthcawl a valuable try. ALL PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.

PORHCRAWL RFC stand just one match away from a trip to the Principality Stadium after leaving Penygraig with a sound 18-13 victory in the bag, to reach the semi-finals of the WRU Bowl for the first time.

It was the outstanding opening exchanges that set the tone for this victory against a Penygraig side that recovered to force a frenetic finale to the match, with 15 minutes added time on a pitch

that cut up easily, making play difficult for both sides.

From the first scrum, the Seaweeds flung the ball wide for centre Jordan Fox to carve through with a searing break and following pressure in the home 22, Porthcawl went ahead as Josh White popped over a penalty for offside in front of the posts and 0-3 to give the visitors a great start.

A good lineup take by skipper Richard Hnyda saw the quick ball reach Jordan Skidmore wide out on the right wing and he made good progress with a strong run, being

stopped just short of the try line at the corner.

This whirlwind start saw Porthcawl pose all kinds of problems for Penygraig and when the home side attempted to run the ball out of defence, Porthcawl left-wing Jake Thomas won a ruck, only for the indiscipline of the home forwards to yield a penalty and Josh White struck a decent kick out of the mud, only for his effort to fall just short.

Skidmore found himself in the bin for 10 minutes for a yellow card offence as Penygraig tried to get back on terms with some good forward play, only for Porthcawl's vaunted defence to hold them back.

Flanker Ben Asprea, making light of the mud, set off on a typical charge, leading up to Penygraig again falling offside and White struck a superb penalty from 45 metres to increase the lead to 0-6.

The defining moment of the half came as a tremendous move saw the ball move through several pairs of hands with Jake Thomas and full-back Ben Thomas prominent and Asprea it was who ended the

ensuing forward drive to crash over for a fine try, converted by White and 0-13 at half-time.

Shortly after the restart, Penygraig at last got something on the board as fly-half Owain Davies struck a good 32 metre penalty for 3-13, before, a few minutes later, Tim Lunn came on for Matt Cooke, with Skidmore also departing to be replaced by Jack Power.

With the home side now making good use of their possession by playing the deteriorating conditions with some sustained driving mauls upfront, their pressure paid off as lock Daniel Lewis emerged with the ball as they drove over the Porthcawl try line.

Davies converted and suddenly it was game on at 10-13.

However with his pack again picking up their game, White nabbed what was effectively the crucial score as the Seaweeds drove into the home 22 for the try that meant Penygraig had to score twice to get ahead, Wil Robinson coming off the bench with fresh legs as Nick Nutman left proceedings at lock, the score 10-18.

As the match moved into the final 10 minutes of normal time, Porthcawl were forced to weather a frenzied onslaught from Penygraig, who were desperate to get the win and when Davies slotted over a penalty for 13-18, Porthcawl's defence was tested to the ultimate as the home side pressed and pressed.

There followed a farcical 15 minutes of added time as the match went to passive scrums, with the referee awarding penalty after penalty to Penygraig as they strove for a result.

However, the Seaweeds had enough in the locker to keep them out and a Penygraig knock-on signalled the final whistle and a famous win for Porthcawl against a side that gave it everything in a compelling match.

Porthcawl now await the outcome of the draw for the semi-finals, and coach Rhys James will know only too well, that his side will need to be on absolute top form as the opportunity for a place in the final beckons.

PF

Athletic top the table with bonus-point win

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC moved to the top of Division 1 West Central on points difference from Maesteg Quins following a 40-14 victory over neighbours Kenfig Hill – though the Quins and Ystalyfera could overtake the Athletic with games in hand.

Credit must go to the Morganstone Brewery Field groundsman for a pitch in excellent condition following a day and night of heavy rain.

The current 10-match winning run commenced with a 39-0 victory over the Mules back on November 11 and coincidentally the return of their talisman captain and flanker Ben Howe from a pre-season injury for that fixture.

On that occasion the Athletic crossed for seven unanswered tries – but while this time they scored six tries, they also conceded two soft late tries to prevent another whitewash.

The game saw scrum half Dan James return from a broken jaw sustained on December 30 against Tondur.

Man, of the match Howe set up field position for the opening try with a decisive break into the Mules' 22, forcing an infringement.

Luke Bevan put the penalty into touch five metres from the try line. A driving maul was halted but when lock Ben Cording was stopped, fellow lock Jonathon Stoker forced his way over near the right-hand touchline. Bevan converted.

Further forward pressure saw prop Matthew Norman halted just short of the line, but Kenfig Hill were unable to halt fellow prop Matthew Muir as he forced his way over wide out on the left-hand side of the field.

Bevan showed he could convert from either side of the pitch as his conversion saw the Athletic become the first side to reach 400 league points this season.

The Athletic found themselves defending a lineout five metres from their own try line. No 8 Sean Williams won the ball and the Athletic drove to their 22 before scrum half Dan James passed back to Bevan to send the ball soaring upfield.

The Athletic then went on the offensive and flanker Ben Davies received the ball 35 metres out and beat three defenders in a powerful run to cross for the third Athletic try. Bevan again



ABOVE: Ben Davies heads to score a try, while BELOW: Sean Williams hands off a defender.

ALL PICTURES BY JOHN CANNON.



converted to put the Athletic in the driving seat with a 21-0 half-time lead.

Five minutes after the restart Athletic wing Tom James charged down an attempted clearance kick just short of the Kenfig Hill try line.

A knock on saw the Athletic with a five-metre scum. Scrum half James fed centre Tom Jenkins who put Tom James over in the corner for the Athletic's bonus-point try to reward his initial charge down. Bevan converted.

From the restart full back Robin Davies, wing Liam Phillips and centre Aled Thomas combined to feed scrum half Dan James.

James made a break and chipped the full back but was impeded in the chase. Bevan kicked the resultant penalty to within five metres of the try line.

Hooker Nathan Holman steered the lineout and subsequent driving maul across the try line for his fourth try of the season. Bevan's conversion opened a 35-0 lead.

To their credit as the Athletic took their foot off the pedal Kenfig Hill stepped on the gas.

A sustained period of pressure saw the Mules' wing break a tackle and race over. The Athletic were then caught napping as Kenfig Hill threw a quickly taken lineout straight to replacement Scott Johnson who ran through

an opening as wide as the parting of the Red Sea in the Athletic defence to cross under the posts.

Outside half Cameron Hall converted both tries to reduce his side's deficit to 35-14.

A fractured ankle which will keep prop Matthew Norman out for the remainder of the season saw hooker Holman move to prop and Lee Murphy assume the hooking role, while flanker Sam Trehame also came on. Murphy controlled another five-metre lineout drive to cross for the final Athletic score and his first try of the season.

Head coach John Apsee, while happy with the result and singling out the back row and outside half Bevan for their contribution, was disappointed with conceding the two tries.

He was also disappointed with the combination of weather and Six Nations preventing momentum. Having gone three weeks since the last game, the Athletic must wait another two weeks before their next fixture at Resolven on March 24.

While it was good to see Dan James return, the club are sorry to lose prop Matthew Norman for the rest of the season and wish him well.

The Athletic are again grateful to long term sponsor Mr Richard Dyke of R & M Dyke (Civil Engineering) Ltd for sponsoring the fixture. AB

Late tries not enough for Pencoe RFC

THROUGH a combination of unforced errors and falling foul of the referee, this turned into a bad day at the office for Pencoe RFC.

Maesteg Celtic were first to score, kicking a penalty after five minutes. They followed this up with an unconverted try on 13 minutes.

Pencoe managed to string some phases together resulting in Liam Callaghan crossing for a try on 17 minutes. Adam Williams added the conversion.

Celtic replied with another penalty on 21 minutes before Adam Williams then replied in kind. With the last play of the half Celtic managed to score another unconverted try, following another penalty, to leave the half-time score 10-16.

The second half started brightly enough

for Pencoe with Rhys Clarke kicking a penalty on 43 minutes. Things fell apart for Pencoe on 54 minutes when their No.14 was shown a yellow card. Three minutes later Pencoe's No.6 followed him to the bin.

Celtic used their numerical advantage to kick two penalties and score a converted try. They secured a fourth try, converted, on 71 minutes to take a lead of 13-36.

To their credit, Pencoe showed typical resilience and determination and finished the match strongly. They ended the game with an unconverted try by Andrew Harris and a try by Rhys Bargery, converted by Rhys Clarke.

As hard as Pencoe tried to get a fourth try and something out of the game, the Celtic defence held firm with them winning 25-36.

SHD

Porthcawl Bridge Club news

PORHCRAWL Duplicate Bridge Club held its main social event of the year on March 8, the Meskin Bowl (handicap).

The winners were Winnie and Dian, and the Meskin Cup (scratch) winners were Emer and Debbie. The event was complemented by excellent cheese and wine, provided by the club.

The previous week's snow caused the postponement of the Welsh Bridge Union's Simultaneous Pairs, so this was belatedly run in conjunction with the Meskin. In this event, the same deals are played at many clubs throughout Wales, with the results scored centrally with Emer and Debbie being the highest placed nationally.

The latest results are: Saturday,

February 17: First, Colin and Hazel Heard; second, Tony Haworth and Roger Draper.

Thursday, February 22: First, Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; second, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison.

Saturday, February 24: First, Tony Haworth and John Beard; Second, Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, March 8: Meskin Bowl (handicap) – Winnie Phillips and Dian Jones; Meskin Bowl (scratch) – Emer Disley and Debbie Lea.

The club meets twice a week at the Awel-y-Mor centre on Thursdays from 6.45pm to 9.45pm and on Saturdays from 3.45pm to 6.45pm; visitors welcome. To contact the club, call Trish on 01656 785794.

TH



SIX NATIONS 2018

WALES 38 ITALY 14



A stress-free afternoon for Wales as they strike early against Italy

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

TO begin, a few thoughts on what the roof on the Principality Stadium brings to Welsh rugby.

There are a lot of pluses, and number one has to be the comfort of the crowd. With rain sweeping across south Wales, it was great to see a crowd settling down to enjoy the game in regular clothes rather than kagoules. We ask the faithful to have deep pockets these days, so a little comfort seems a fair trade.

Another plus is that matches are less of a lottery. If a match is to be decided by a mistake, let it be a genuine error and not just a failing to hang on to a greasy ball at a crucial moment.

Finally, of course, you get a better spectacle, but this comes at a price, because we expect Wales to be the major players in that spectacle.

We can rely on the Scots to join in that enterprise, because they are trying to play a fast and loose game. Sadly, a touch too loose at the moment.

Are England, France and Ireland up for it? Well, that depends on pragmatism on the day, but let's not hold our breath about Ireland suddenly playing Barbarians-style rugby.

Fortunately, on Sunday, Italy were happy to join in with the open play, perhaps because they were confident that they had the best open-field runner in their lightweight full back, Matteo Minozzi.

After 10 minutes, there were 21 points on the board. At that rate, it could be 110 - 55 at full time.

After three minutes, Wales declined a 40-metre penalty and Gareth Anscombe kicked for the corner.

The line out was won and a series of slick attacks put Wales close to the line, from where scrum half Gareth Davies missed out Justin Tipuric and sent a longer pass to Hadleigh Parkes instead.

In truth, that pass was a touch high but, because Parkes had to leap and twist in the air, his marker, centre Tomasso Castello, got his body position wrong and the Wales centre slipped from his grasp and went over for a try. Sadly, Castello hit his head in the tackle and had to be substituted.

Anscombe converted and, from the restart, Parkes demonstrated that even when he makes a mistake (and he makes very few), it turns out well for Wales. He caught the kick-off but the ball was ripped from his grasp and Italy, in their eagerness to move the ball wide, threw a blind pass and Owen Watkin intercepted.

The centre raced away and looked, for a moment, to have lost contact with any support runners.

However, he was smart enough to sense George North coming up at speed on his right, and he linked up perfectly for the Northampton outcast to go over for another try, again converted by Anscombe.

The crowd were sensing a floodgates moment but Italy were made of sterner stuff. They showed their intent by turning down a penalty and, after winning the lineout, they set up an ominous driving maul, which Wales collapsed. With a penalty advantage in the bag, they moved the ball left and Minozzi skinned Liam Williams to go over in the corner.

Tomasso Allan, who went on to have a good game at outside half - even getting up smiling after being winded by a crunching tackle from



Taulupe Faletau was immense for Wales, in his first game as captain. (All photographs by the Huw Evans Agency).

Taulupe Faletau - converted from wide out and it was 14-7 to Wales.

Warren Gatland had been accused of "disrespecting" Italy when he made 10 changes - a little unfair when, as Rob Howley pointed out, three British Lions were returning after injury.

However, he was clearly looking for his second-string front row players, Nicky Smith, Elliot Dee and Tomas Francis, to show that they could start a major international match, rather than playing the last 20 minutes. Italy would provide that test, but it was 16 minutes before the first scrum in the game. On that one, Italy had the put in and did not seem under pressure.

On 17 minutes, Wales seemed to have scored again. The ball was moved slickly along the line, and Steff Evans kicked ahead for Gareth Davies to touch down. However, the Scarlets scrum-half had strayed in front of his team-mate by just one yard when Evans kicked.

Two minutes later, flanker James Davies, who overall had an excellent match, was caught landing an unnecessary late shoulder charge on Allan, and the outside half responded by putting the penalty kick 10 metres from the

Welsh goal line. The lineup became an attacking scrum for Italy but Wales defended it well.

Two minutes later, Wales relieved the pressure with a kick ahead and Minozzi scored another point against Liam Williams by out-pacing him and regaining possession for the Azzurri.

Italy were soon back on the attack, and turned down two more penalties, opting for a kick to the corner instead. Good defence by Wales kept them out, and when Allan did opt to kick for three points, he blotted his copybook by missing.

To rub salt into the wound, Wales managed to get into the Italian half, where they were awarded a penalty 30 metres out, which Anscombe kicked to make it 17-7.

Then, with half-time looming, Wales were on the attack again close to the Italian line, and had a penalty advantage. They took the sensible option of kicking high to the corner, knowing they could come back for the penalty.

Unfortunately, Liam Williams decided to land a heavy tackle on his tormentor, Minozzi.

Referee Jeromes Garces asked TMO Marius Jonker to look at it and you had the feeling that each time the officials looked at it, the worse it became.

In the end, Wales were relieved it was just a yellow. Two more views and it could have been a red. The penalty for Wales was, of course, overturned.

Wales coach Warren Gatland, so it turned out, was furious. He sentenced Williams to sit patiently pitchside for the first 10 minutes of the second half - seemingly seeing out his time in the sin bin - and then replaced him with Leigh Halfpenny!

Wales came out for the second half with 14 men, but immediately made ground into the Italian 25, and a series of clinical attacks put second row Cory Hill over for a try that Anscombe converted.

Now leading by 24-10, the pressure seemed to be off for Wales, but Gareth Davies added a bit more, going to the sin bin himself after a deliberate knock on.

He also did not come back on when his 10 minutes were over, being replaced by Aled Davies, but that seemed to be more a regular replacement, as it came on the 60-minute mark.

As a result of his infringement, Italy had a lineout close to the Welsh line, with Wales down to 13 men. However, the Italians missed the throw and Wales breathed again.

Once Wales were back to 15 men, the



George North was back to his best.



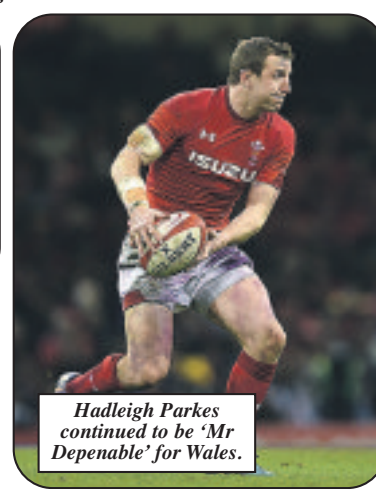
James Davies had a fine first game for Wales.

result was not in doubt. Patchell took over at outside half and was impressive.

Four minutes after Patchell came on, a Welsh attack put Hadleigh Parkes over for his second, but the TMO was a bit harsh, ruling it out due to a lack of 'conclusive' grounding.

It mattered not. Two minutes later Wales were camped on the Italian line and Patchell drew defenders to him before putting George North over for his second try. Halfpenny converted for a score of 31-7.

Soon after, Halfpenny made a strong break and a try seemed certain. The forwards were, initially, reluctant to let the ball go wide but when they did, Hadleigh Parkes sent a precise lobbed pass to Tipuric, who went over in the corner.



Hadleigh Parkes continued to be 'Mr Dependable' for Wales.

Halfpenny converted for 38-7.

There was time for a consolation try for the Italian left wing Bellini, making it 38-14 after the successful conversion, but all in all, it was a good day for Wales.

Gatland will sleep easier knowing that he has a complete back row of Shingler, Navidi and Moriarty in the frame, as well as Sunday's three.

Selection for the final game against France will not be easy!

Jonathan Davies awarded Hadleigh Parkes the man-of-the-match trophy on 78 minutes, leaving time for George North to go over for his hat-trick

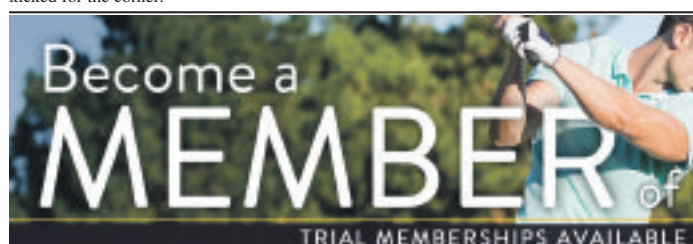
try - which sadly was ruled out for an earlier infringement.

Davies joked that, had North's try been allowed, he would have had to switch the trophy to George, but the truth is that Parkes was the standout candidate. I've said before that he has that Steve Fenwick quality of always doing the right thing.

Like Fenwick, he hasn't an extravagant sidestep, or blinding pace.

He just passes when that is right, kicks when that is right, and holds onto the ball when that is the sensible option.

Hadleigh makes it quite a simple game!



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